

the chronicle

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Schoolchildren hit the right note for big song event at Arena



Thousands of children packed out the LG arena, for the Young Voices concert

Youngsters from across the Black Country were joined by singing sensation Connie Talbot for the first of the region's annual Young Voices concerts. More than 8,500 youngsters from 160 schools, aged between seven and 10 are taking part in the shows at Birmingham's LG Arena. The first of the three was held last night.

Dudley schools involved in the shows include Glynn Primary School, Kingswinford; Milkingbank Primary School, Dudley; Russells Hall Primary School, Dudley; Newfield Park Primary school, Halesowen; Lutley Primary school, Halesowen; and Gig Mill Primary School, Stourbridge.

Streetly schoolgirl Connie Talbot, 11, who made her name on the ITV show Britain's Got Talent, sang her new song Beautiful World at the event. Pupils Amy Preece and Emily

Dunn-Bartlett both aged 10, from Glynn Primary School, Cot Lane, Kingswinford said they had a fantastic day at the LG Arena, and had enjoyed rehearsing for it at school.

Amy said: "We had our rehearsals at the after school club, and had extra ones as it came closer to the show."

Favourite

Emily added: "Our favourite songs are the pop medley and the Queen medley, and we love doing the actions."

The second and third performances at the arena take place tonight and on Thursday.

The show was moved to Monday night, due to the public sector strike action. This is the 15th year of the Young Voices concerts which raises funds for children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent.



Amy Preece and Emily Dunn-Bartlett both aged 10 are from Glynn Primary School, Kingswinford

Officers will be giving advice to centre shoppers from empty store

POLICE OPEN UP TOWN COP SHOP

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Police in Halesowen have opened up their very own "cop shop" to offer crime prevention advice to shoppers in the town centre. Throughout December officers will be on hand to talk to residents from a vacant shop in the Queensway.

They will be offering tips on how people can keep their personal belongings, home and vehicle safe in the run-up to Christmas, when there is often a rise in crime. Halesowen Sector Inspector Mick Palmer has come up with the new way of offering winter advice.

He said: "This should prove to be a successful way of engaging with the local community and businesses within Halesowen."

The shop will be run by officers and police community support officers to interact with the community and offer crime prevention tips to locals.

Handbags

"We will be reminding people to keep their handbags close to them, as we do see a rise in pickpockets at this time of year and will also be offering a property marking service, where we will be happy to securely UV mark your new Christmas goods."

Officers will be joined by representatives from other partner agencies such as Trading Standards, Age Concern, Living Well Feeling Safe and West Midlands Fire Service over the month of December.

Insp Palmer added: "We welcome anyone to pop down and meet the team. We are here to listen to your concerns and help assist you in anyway we can."

This new initiative forms part of the force wide operation Serve & Protect launched in April in a move to crack down on robbery and crime.

The campaign aims to put the right number of officers in the right places and tackle the issues which matter to local people.

Anyone who cannot make it down to the shop but has a question they would like to raise with the local neighbourhood team, can visit the website www.dudleypolice.org.uk for more details.

Fraudster had secret cash stash

A father of two with £57,000 salted away in secret bank accounts has been locked up for pocketing more than £15,000 in a benefits scam. Balbir Rai concealed the cash from the Department for Work and Pensions, a court heard.

He spread it among nine different bank accounts, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 36-year-old, of Coseley, told officials he had no savings to enable him to claim job seekers allowance. He continued to collect the benefit payments for almost two years before investigators found him out.

It was during this time the deposits in his secret accounts soared from almost £18,000 to £57,000.

Prosecutor Miss Laura Hobson said: "He claimed to have neither savings nor capital when making his written application for job seekers allowance in June 2008, despite having nine bank accounts with £17,753 in them, a figure that increased steadily."

"It had risen to £28,000 the following month and by October 2009 the total was £57,000. As a result of his actions he was over paid £15,293 to which he had no entitlement."

Questions

"When these matters came to light he was reluctant to discuss his bank accounts, claiming not to understand the questions that he was being asked."

"When the evidence was put before him he expressed dismay that investigators had been able to access this information without his consent."

Rai, from Vicarage Road, claimed the money was financial support from an "uncle".

Mr Scott Coughtrie, defending, told the court on Monday: "He was desperate and going through a difficult time after separating from his wife. He had no money and no job and felt he was in dire circumstances."

Rai, who was of previous good character, admitting dishonestly making a false statement between June 30, 2008, and May 21, 2010.

Recorder William Edis QC jailed him for eight weeks and told him: "Many ordinary honest taxpayers would give their right arm to have savings of £57,000 in the bank but they do not go out and steal other people's money."

"You were by no means on your uppers when you made this claim and still kept claiming while you prospered."

Star pair share accolade for the first time



Leanne Ditchfield and Jodie Rock with their award from Startime Variety

Two long-serving members of a Black Country performing society have been honoured for their tireless work on stage and behind the scenes.

Halesowen's Startime Variety presents the accolade to the person members think has contributed most to the society over the past 12 months. And for the first time ever it has been awarded to two people – 27-year-old Jodie Rock and Leanne Ditchfield, 26.

As well as performing in the society's shows both Jodie and Leanne have taken an active role behind the scenes over the years.

Jodie, a member of Startime Variety for 16 years, produced this year's successful summer show, called Startime Goes Pop, for the group. She also makes props for the shows and helps to paint the scenery.

And Leanne, a member for 10 years, has produced programmes for the group's performances for the last five years and helps prepare the costumes.

Jodie, a sales consultant from Halesowen, said: "I am really pleased to have received the award." Leanne, a librarian from Rowley Regis, added: "It is really nice to be recognised in this way by Startime."



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Girlfriend is flung out of car

A motorist who was more than twice the drink drive limit crashed his car, causing his girlfriend to be thrown out of the vehicle, Dudley Magistrates Court was told. The vehicle ended up on its roof.

Todd Harris had been drinking before losing control of his mother's Renault Laguna in Hagley Road, Halesowen. Harris, aged 22, needed to be cut out of the vehicle by fire crews.

He was not seriously injured but his girlfriend needed treatment from paramedics at the scene.

Police arrested Harris and a breath test gave a reading of 96mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The limit is 35mg.

Harris, of Crabbe Street, Stourbridge, was disqualified from driving for 23 months and handed a community order including 40 hours of unpaid work.

The court heard Harris told police he did not remember the collision, which happened at 2.20am.

Mr Michael Doyle, defending, said Harris had left his house following a row between his mother and her partner the evening before the crash happened.

He went for a few drinks, which had included a pint of cider and some Jack Daniels whiskey, with his girlfriend before driving home.

"He thought wrongly that he was OK to drive," Mr Doyle said.

Harris was ordered at the hearing to pay £80 costs. He had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to driving with excess alcohol.

Choral concert

Halesowen Choral Society will present Handel's Messiah for its latest concert next week at St Paul's Church, Long Lane, Blackheath. The show starts at 7.30pm on Saturday December 10 and tickets are £8, including refreshments. Tickets can be bought from choir members, by emailing tickets@halesowenchoralsociety.org or by calling 0121 550 7206.

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Residents called to foot bill on bin thefts

Dudley people are being asked to foot the bill after a spate of thefts of garden waste wheelie bins. New figures show thieves stole 349 of the green plastic bins from outside people's homes in the borough in one year.

Residents who fall victim are asked to pay £25 if they want the bin replaced. However, the council says there is discretion to waive the charge if a householder can prove they have taken good care to prevent damage or theft of their bins.

Councillor David Stanley, said many of the bins were taken by youths, who used them to build bonfires to keep warm while they drank beer.

He added the thefts escalated during the autumn and winter and that the north of the borough — Gornal, Sedgley and Coseley — was hit the most.

Tony and Hazel Timmins, both aged 64, of Tiled House Lane, Pensnett, were staggered after their green recycling bin was stolen from the edge of their drive — and the council then demanded £25 for a replacement.

Assessed

"This is an excellent example of our confiscation powers, removing the assets from criminals who seek to profit from their criminality," he said. "He said under the Proceeds of Crime Act that money would be taken away and handed to good causes."

Hughes, of Marshwood Croft, Halesowen, was jailed for two years last year but after three months appeal judges released her, agreeing the original jail term was too harsh.

They replaced it with a 12-month sentence, suspended for 18 months, with a supervision order. The court had been told that Hughes was addicted to crack cocaine before getting into a relationship with criminal Lee Morris.

Morris, 36, is serving a 10-year jail term after pleading guilty to 36 burglaries.

Myster-tree over drawings

Mysterious drawings stuffed into empty mustard oil bottles have been found in a Black Country park in a bizarre series of events over recent weeks, residents claim.

Neighbours of Netherton Park in Dudley say the bottles of oil are being emptied over the trees, leaving stains, and left upside down at the base with the drawings rolled up inside in what has been suggested is some kind of mystic ritual.

Police confirmed they had received reports of the strange incidents.

Resident Gordon Smith, of Greaves Road near the park, said he was baffled. "This has been going on for several months," he said.

"There is usually a rolled up diagram that depicts a human figure together with various signs and symbols, either inside the bottles or else placed near to the bottles at the bases of the trees.

"The behaviour, that takes place either late at night or in the early morning, is leaving ugly stains on the trees and, as yet, no-one knows what the effect of the oil could have on the health of the trees. We are also know for sure."

It has been suggested by various people who have done some research that it is an old superstition connected with Indian ancestry, perhaps connected to 'healing magic' for someone



A copy of one of the drawings



Friends of the Park members Mike Willets, front, with Gordon Smith, top left, and Geoff Johnson

Countess of Dudley dies, 78

The Countess of Dudley, better known to film fans as actress Maureen Swanson, has died aged 78.

Lady Dudley married William Ward, then Viscount Ednam and later the fourth Earl of Dudley, in August 1961.

Maureen Swanson was born in Glasgow on November 25 1932 and developed a passion for dance, particularly ballet, from a young age.

She won a place at the Sadler's Wells Ballet School. She was later selected to perform with the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet Company.

It was while with the company she was spotted by a talent scout in a production at the Theatre Royal, in Drury Lane.

During the 1950s she became a familiar face to cinemagoers appearing in films such as Moulin Rouge, Knights of the Round Table and A Town Like Alice. She gave up her screen career after marrying Viscount Ednam in 1961, just days after his divorce from his first wife was finalised. The couple's first son was born prematurely and lived for only a few hours.

They went on to have five daughters before the birth of another son in 1971. The countess died on November 16 and is survived by her husband and six children.



Countess of Dudley in 1996

Festivities planned at the rock houses

The Kinver Edge rock houses are opening for a special Christmas event on December 10 from 10am until 3pm.

The houses and tearooms will be decked with traditional decorations which will be made and put up by children at Brindley Heath Junior School. There will be carol singers, mince pies and hot chocolate in the tea rooms.

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Views are sought on plans for market

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More than 200 people have had their say on new £6million plans to revamp Dudley's historic market place.

Since a second public consultation began, Dudley Council has been inundated with people sharing their views on the scheme.

The plans have received a mixed response from people in town, with some welcoming the more modern designs for the market stalls while others have said they believe the revamp is not needed.

The consultation asks shoppers and traders about paving, seating, public art and lighting.

An initial consultation was held in March and ran for six weeks.

It featured three different market place options, as well as plans to relocate the Duncan Edwards statue and to bring the fountain back into use by introducing lighting to highlight its special features.

After that, new proposals were drafted up which extended the scheme, including additional parking, new footpaths, improved controlled crossing points and new cycle parking in Castle Street, as well as improvements to the steps and frontage of St Edmunds Church.

Responses

The redevelopment of the market place now includes Castle Street, up to and including the Earl of Dudley statue.

Council spokeswoman Claire Marshall said: "The consultation is in its fourth week and so we've had 203 responses."

An information stand was put up in the market place last week giving people the chance to find out more about the project.

Public art will feature in the overall scheme and shoppers and traders were able to view examples of the work.

A lighting display last week showed people examples of special features being lit up in Dudley town centre.

Questionnaires can be completed on the council website before Saturday.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "The market place consultation looks at ways in which we can sympathetically restore and highlight the fantastic features of Dudley's historic town centre."

More than 600 people took part in the first consultation earlier this year.

Zoo's speedy new addition



Keeper, Jay Haywood (right) with students Harvey Price, Harley Hunt, Hannah Follows and Timmy the tortoise

An African spurred tortoise has joined Dudley Zoo, where he has been trailing keepers around at high speed – for a tortoise. The new addition has been named Timmy and assistant curator Richard Brown said he was proving popular with keepers at the zoo. He said: "He's been following staff around and he can really motor. He's 60cms long and could pretty much double his size in years to come."

Timmy also made his mark on a group of NUVG students who are now working at the zoo as part of a work-based Level 2 animal care course. The species originates in the African deserts and is endangered due to a demand for ornaments and fashion accessories made from their shells.

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Howling dogs lead to woman in court

A dog owner was given a £320 court bill after neighbours complained her two pets were barking and howling in the evening, causing a noise nuisance.

Bus driver Rachel Bell, aged 50, was found guilty of breaching a noise abatement order at Dudley Magis-

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position and cancelled the £5,000 penalty she could have faced.

Instead Bell, of Highfield Road, Sedgley, was given a conditional discharge for 12 months, and ordered to pay £320 court costs.

The court heard a noise abatement order was issued in February following complaints from Bell's next door neighbour.

Dudley Council officers visited the neighbour's home at around 6.40pm on March 6 following continued complaints, and community safety officer John Jones said in evidence the noise from the animals – a border collie and a Yorkshire Terrier-cross – had been "excessive" and could be heard over the television.

In defence, Tottenham fan Bell said on that date she had been to see Spurs' match against Wolves at Molineux, and had returned home by the time Mr Jones visited her neighbours.

She denied there had been any excessive barking, claiming they had only barked in greeting.

Chairman of magistrates Mr Robert Gilbert said: "I am a dog owner myself and sometimes dogs do bark – we appreciate that," he said.

"But if you do have neighbours it can also be a major annoyance to them. If you can keep that to a minimum it's in your own interests."

New opening

The NatWest branch in Blackheath is now opened on a Saturday for the first time after customers ask for longer times. It will open from 9am to 12.30pm and from 9am to 5pm through the week, apart at 9.30am start on Wednesdays.

Pampering for caring Pauline



Carer Pauline Heathcock, right, with Judith Worrall and Julie Miller, from Kidderminster, enjoying star treatment

A CARER for children and young people in Dudley has been given a five-star thank you from Barnardo's for her commitment to their fostering service.

Pauline Heathcock provides short respite breaks to children who live with Barnardo's foster parents across the West Midlands.

Pauline was one of 54 carers invited to an all expenses paid pamper day at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill.

Tracey Coleman, support worker at Barnardo's fostering service, said: "We have fantastic carers who give their time and love tirelessly to make a difference to children and young people who have had a really difficult start and some who also have disabilities.

"This is a great way of giving them some time out and showing them they really are

valued. We are very grateful to the Copthorne Hotel who generously offered their facilities for the day free of charge."

The family placement service recruit, train and provide ongoing support for carers and are constantly looking for more black and ethnic minority volunteers to get involved.

Chance

Matt Ward, father of two and general manager at the Copthorne hotel, said: "When the chance to open our doors to the local community and help people who are so committed to children came up we were really keen to get involved."

"It was the perfect opportunity to be able to support Barnardo's and the great work they do."

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Options for troubled park to be discussed

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A dispersal order giving the police powers to break up nuisance gangs could be brought in at a trouble-plagued beauty spot in Wordsley.

The order is just one of the options being considered for King George V Park.

Other suggestions include installing floodlights at the children's play area where youths are known to gather at night.

The possible measures to protect the park from booze-fuelled vandal attacks will be discussed at a meeting of residents, councillors and police.

The meeting has been organised following a number of attacks over the years.

As well as the dispersal order covering Bell Lane, the times the park is locked up, and whether parts of the site should remain open to allow police quicker access should trouble be reported, will also be discussed.

The meeting will take place at the park tomorrow, December 2 and involves nearby residents, police, councillors and members of Dudley Council's Green Care team which looks after the park.

Plants have been torn up, litter strewn around the site and items such as fences and benches have been destroyed in previous attacks.

Support

Councillor Geoffrey Southall said residents reported that problems were continuing at the beauty spot at night.

He added: "This meeting has been organised to try and deal with this problem once and for all."

"We are looking at the possibility of seeking a dispersal order for Bells Lane as one of the measures, and this meeting will allow us to gauge the support for that."

"Police will be taking part in the meeting so they will be able to take away the opinions given at the meeting in terms of that idea."

"We also want to get the views on floodlighting the play area as a deterrent against people gathering there at night."

Presently the park is locked at night, although the times this happens seems to vary. This is also something we will be looking at."

Councillor Southall said that while it was not a public meeting, residents had been invited after councillors were approached by householders at a recent meeting of Brierley Hill Area Committee.

Santas set for festive run



Natasha Newman, Lucy Rutherford, Matthew Bright and Nigel Smith, from Waitrose, prepare for the Santa run

More than 400 people have signed up for an annual festive fun run in Stourbridge. Around 700 places are up for grabs in the Santa Jog organised in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice. Among those heading to Mary Stevens Park for the 5k route on December 11 at 10.30am will be 21 members of staff from Waitrose. Led by acting branch manager David Harcourt, the team has been in training for weeks.

More than 540 people entered the event in 2010, despite the snow, and the hospice fundraising team says it has been delighted with the response so far. Janet Jones, head of fundraising said: "It is really exciting to see so many registrations coming in. It is such a surreal sight to see so many people dressed in their Santa suits."

The entry fee is £12 for adults and £5 for children under 12. Those who take part get a free Santa suit and registration can be done online at www.marystevenshospice.co.uk. Entry forms can also be obtained from the fundraising office by calling 01384 377778.

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Tuesday 27 December, 2011	Wednesday 28 December, 2011
Wednesday 28 December, 2011	Thursday 29 December, 2011
Thursday 29 December, 2011	Friday 30 December, 2011
Friday 30 December, 2011	Saturday 31 December 2011

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College campaign steps up

A campaign to get a new University Technical College (UTC) built in Dudley has taken a leap forward after Education Secretary Michael Gove agreed to meet Dudley North MP Ian Austin to discuss the plans.

The issue was raised during the education questions session at the Commons.

Mr Austin has been campaigning to get a UTC in Dudley following the success of a £9.5 million project in

Walsall, which he visited on recently. He told the session: "Credit where credit is due. I have to say I thought it was fantastic."

"Will the Secretary of State meet me soon so we can discuss how we can open a UTC in Dudley and deal with the urgent need to drive up vocational standards and bring new jobs and new industry to the area?"

Mr Gove replied: "It will be a joy."

Speaking after the Commons session, Mr Austin said his visit to the Walsall UTC had re-inforced his

desire to see one in Dudley. "I'm delighted that Michael Gove has agreed to meet me to discuss the issue," he said.

"An area like ours which has lost jobs in traditional manufacturing but failed to attract new industries and new jobs needs to encourage young people to think about careers in engineering, advanced manufacturing and areas like research, development and design which is exactly what the UTCs are being established to do."

Ballot date for hospital

Clothes plea to help homeless



Victor Fletcher from Cradley Heath appealing for unwanted coats this winter

A tattoo shop was stripped of equipment in a burglary in Stourbridge. PC Jon Kirk, of Stourbridge police, said the raid on November 11 was at One Shot Charlie's in Lower High Street.

A box of specialist tools and equipment, worth about £300, was stolen, along with a massage bed. Anyone with information is asked to call police on 0345 113 5000.

The Salvation Army base in Cradley Heath is appealing for anyone with old coats to donate them to help the homeless this winter.

The Meredith Street centre has been chosen as a collection point for national campaign Donate a Coat, after the organisation and ITV's Daybreak programme teamed up to collect and distribute coats until Friday this week to help those in need.

Volunteer Victor Fletcher said: "The Sal-

vation Army is recognised world-wide and working with Daybreak and its 800,000 viewers, we will be looking after the elderly, the homeless and children living below the poverty line."

The Cradley Heath centre is one of 200 across the country chosen to help in the effort to spread a little warmth this winter.

The centre will be open from 9am to 5pm as a drop-off point, and the appeal will be publicised on Daybreak to get the word out.



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National award for Somers Club efforts

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A members' club in Halesowen, noted for its fundraising efforts, has been voted the best in the country for the second time in two years.

The Somers Sports and Social Club beat off competition from 12,000 others to receive the accolade.

Judges from industry experts at Club Mirror gave the Somers, off Grange Hill, the honour at an awards ceremony in Manchester on November 10.

Club managers Joanne and Ian Bamford were also voted in the top five managers in the country for the last three years.

Somers Club chairman, Paul Hill, said: "We are all very proud of our achievements over the last few years as the club has been turned around from near closure to become a thriving part of our local community."

Expectations

"To be honoured in this way by Club Mirror for the second time in two years has to show that we are in tune with the requirements and expectations of our members and to this end we would like to thank everyone for their support and especially thank our managers and staff."

The club recently raised £2,530 for Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital and has helped charities in the area for many years.

It's Grange II-listed headquarters, The Grange, has been home to the club since 1950 when it was given as a trust to the workers and families of Walter Somers Ltd.



Jo and Ian Bamford with club chairman Paul Hill at the club in Halesowen



Top again... Somers Sports and Social Club

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thechronicle

Bogus callers alert

Eight reports of bogus callers targeting householders have been reported in Dudley over the last couple of months according to new figures.

Police say six "distraction burglaries" were reported in the borough during October and another two in November. There have been claims some of the callers said they were from "the water board."

Bosses at South Staffs Water say around half bogus callers use this claim in order to gain entry to houses of elderly or vulnerable people but employees of South Staffs Water would never use this phrase and the company is urging residents to be vigilant in checking the identity of callers if they have any doubts about them.

All South Staffs Water employees, and authorised contractors, wear a uniform and carry identity cards that they will produce when calling at a customer's home.

If in any doubt, do not callers in and contact your local police station on 0345 113 5000.

Crooked pub aims to pull in film punters



Filmstar – The Crooked House pub in Himley

It will be lights, camera and action for a famous Black Country pub soon as filming begins for a ghost movie. The film, called The Crooked House, will be shot at the tilting pub in Himley and will be released in the UK and US. Los Angeles film-maker Mark Todd, who comes from Wednesbury, will travel from LA in the new year to begin work on the project.

The main film will tell the story of an LA-based English film director who buys the Crooked House and moves in with his American wife.

Soon ghosts start to appear and set off a chain of events, climaxing in a dramatic ending. A cast of up-and-coming actors from both the Midlands and America have been given parts in the movie, using contacts Mr Todd has made through his career.

While shooting the film Mr Todd, 46, will also make a documentary about ghosts in Dudley – looking in particular at the castle and the Talbot Hotel.

He said: "It's very exciting and I'm so glad it's all finally coming together. This will be a great thing for the area and will really put the Crooked House on the map. It's such a fascinating place that I just knew I had to make a film there when I visited." Mr Todd said he believes American audiences will love the film.

He said: "Americans are into anything that is typically English and this definitely fits the bill."

Narnia is recreated



Trevor Baker, Margaret Parker and Sharon Baker take a trip to Narnia

Children will be able to step into the magical land of Narnia this Christmas thanks to donations to a Dudley church.

Huge Christmas trees, snow and even Aslan the Lion will greet schoolchildren visiting a winter wonderland created by the Revival Fire Church Mission, Wolverhampton Street.

Volunteers have spent two weeks creating a festive experience inspired by CS Lewis' The Chronicles of Narnia in a 9,000 sqft warehouse next to the church.

Donations of trees and other decorations have been used to transform the warehouse to create a trail for children to explore landmarks made famous in the book.

The show will open on December 3 until December 21 with the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Michael Evans paying a visit to the display and interactive experience on December 4.

Church leader Trevor Baker, aged 59, who leads the congregation with his wife Sharon, says the display was created to get across the Christian message behind Christmas. He said: "Christmas is about an empowering experience. Everyone was making cutbacks at the moment but we didn't want to cut back on Christmas and there is a wonderful message in the story of Narnia that good can triumph over evil."

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Woman in £32,000 benefits fraud

A fraudster from Halesowen illegally pocketed around £32,000 in benefits, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Marie Flavell collected income support along with housing and council tax pay outs to which she was not entitled for two years before the con was uncovered by investigators.

The 42-year-old, who had been legitimately claiming the state handouts as a lone parent, failed to notify the authorities when her boyfriend set up

home with her, revealed prosecutor Joe Templeton.

She was paid more than £80,000 in benefits since the original claim was made but only around £32,000 of that was received fraudulently, the court heard.

Circumstances

Ironically, she would have got roughly the same amount of money in different benefits such as tax credit if she had told the truth about her circumstances, Mr Anthony Bell, defend-

ing, said. "She was not enjoying a life of luxury. It was still life on the breadline," he added.

Flavell, from Huntlands Road, admitted last week to failing to report a change in her circumstances between 2007 and 2009 and was given a 20-week prison sentence suspended for 18 months under supervision and ordered to do 180 hours unpaid work.

Judge Michael Dudley said "hard working people" were fed up with cheats.

Fishing lake plan approved

A revived bid to install a fishing lake on land in Halesowen has been given the go-ahead despite concerns over wildlife.

Proposals for the development on land currently used for horse grazing in Hagley Road were thrown out by Dudley Council planners last year and dismissed on appeal by the planning inspectorate.

But renewed plans without an amenity building, which was originally proposed, were approved by the council's development control committee last week.

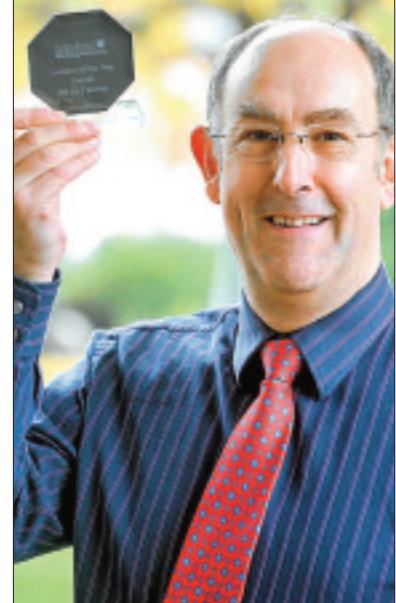
Ward councillor Ken Turner told the meeting that 25 people had raised concerns and said he was "surprised" the plans had been submitted again.

He said important wildlife and archaeology at the site would be lost.

Residents were worried there will be extra traffic and also have concerns about the noise, he said.

But landowner Andy Foxhall said he had worked with the Environment Agency and they had not objected to the proposals.

Landlord of the Year award



Andy Burton celebrates winning this year's national Landlord of the Year award

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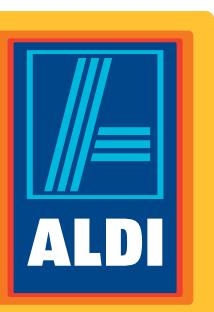
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thechronicle

DIY decorations to brighten homes

PEOPLE can make their own Christmas decorations during a special workshop for adults in West Bromwich.

The session on December 5 will be held at the Oak House Museum in Oak Road between 10am and 1pm.

Jane Hanney, museum services manager at Sandwell Museum Service, said: "We ran a similar workshop last year, and it was totally sold out."

"People really enjoyed the session and were excited about making their own decorations."

"We run so many events for families and children, and adults were saying that they would like to join in too."

"Visitors can make a

unique stitched Christmas decoration to take home and display this Christmas and keep for the future.

"We have limited places, so we ask that those wishing to take part call the house to book a place."

The session costs £4. To book, call 0121 553 0759.

Visits

Other activities at the Oak House Museum this Christmas include a Tudor Christmas event on December 4, a visit from Santa and activities on December 10 and a Carols by Candlelight event with the Salvation Army on December 15.

For full event listings, visit www.facebook.com/sandwellmuseums



Museum assistant Andrea Hicklin at Oak House Museum

Council home sales show a recent drop

NUMBERS of people buying their council homes in Sandwell have plummeted in recent years.

Sales were in their hundreds from 2001/02 to 2007/08, peaking in 2003/04 when 1,026 people bought their homes.

But the past two years only 102 people taking up the option.

Councillor Ray Nock, the leader of Sandwell's opposition Conservative group, said numbers have fallen after discounts were discontinued.

He said: "I'm not surprised that the right to buy numbers have dipped after Labour withdrew a number of discounts. I am so pleased Government has announced it will be reintroducing a form of right to buy with five

per cent deposits on mortgages to help Sandwell residents buy their council homes. I think this is the way forward."

Latest figures show in 2007/08 213 people bought their council home. But that figure more than halved to 91 the year after and went down again to 47 in 2009/10 and 55 last year.

A total of 4,376 people have bought their homes over the past 10 years.

Backing

Councillor Nock said he was backing a Whitehall suggestion to introduce a form of the right to buy scheme launched in the 1980s.

Margaret Thatcher's Government of the time allowed council tenants to buy their council homes at a discount.

Tenants who lived there for up to three years got a 33 per cent discount on to the property's market value, increasing to up to 50 per cent discounts for people with tenancies of 20 years.

The Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles recently said at the Conservative Party conference he was planning to relaunch the scheme. He has not yet said what discounts will be offered.

Councillor Nock added he hoped the move would bring in cash, as well as help people from the borough to get on the property ladder.

Council bosses hope to build 700 homes a year up to 2015 to help struggling residents from the six towns get to buy their first homes. It is anticipated it would cost £280 million.

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Cabbies hit in blitz

Two private hire taxi drivers have had their licences suspended and one minibus banned from the road after police found they were being driving with "dangerous" defects.

Halesowen police working with taxi licensing enforcement officers from Dudley Council checked private hire taxi during the school run.

During the operation, nine cars were checked and a third were found to be driving despite problems including poor tyre tread, broken headlights and indicators.

Sgt Martin Hall, from the Halesowen North neighbourhood policing team, said the event had been carried out as part of ongoing partnership working between the police and council.

"One vehicle - a minibus - had to be taken off the road completely due to the number of defects and the general poor condition," he said. "It was a very successful morning and we are pleased with what we have achieved."

"When there are defects such as a bad general condition, tyre tread, or lighting offences it can be a danger and enforcement officers are quite rightly very hot on these."

The fruits of labour



Dudley Zookeeper Kirsty Thornton with a saki monkey and a much-prized corn on the cob, part of leftovers donated by town market stallholders

A dedicated keeper at Dudley Zoo uses her own lunch-break to dash off around the nearby market and pick up tasty treats for the animals in her care.

Kirsty Thornton volunteers to make the daily dash around the town's market stalls to provide the Castle Hill attraction's primates and porcupines with a varied diet.

Juicy treats are now put aside for the animals. The generosity of workers in the town means the animals get treats such as grapes, sweetcorn, parsnips, spring onions, plums and strawberries. Kirsty said: "Most days I leave a few minutes spare in my lunch break and then make a mad dash to the market."

"Some of the stallholders have fruit and vegetables in boxes and the council's employees also look for tasty leftovers and keep it in their storeroom."

"There are some lovely treats. A lot of the food goes to the primates as I work on that section."

"The orang-utans, howler monkeys and capuchins regularly enjoy titbits I have collected from the market. The crested porcupines also eat some of the vegetables."

Group is handed £9,000 for study

A Black Country group has received £9,000 for a feasibility study on improvements to a community centre.

Quarry Bank Community Association has been told its bid for cash from the Big Lottery Fund has been successful. It will be used to look at ways Quarry Bank Community Centre can be refurbished to benefit existing users.

Members of the association also hope improving the building will lead to it being used more by the community.

The study will look at the possibility of providing a second hall, additional meeting rooms and upgrading the kitchen.

Plans to improve disabled facilities and the creation of a public square will also be looked at.

The study will produce a digital survey of the centre as it is now and create computer modelling of what it could look like.

These findings and options will be presented for community discussion and approval at the Diamond Jubilee consultation day in June 2012.

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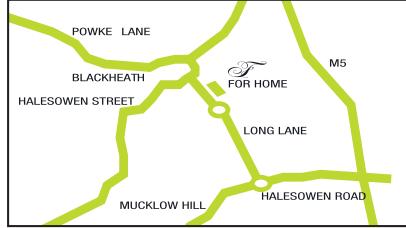
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Blackpool honour for comedian Tommy

Veteran Black Country entertainer Tommy Munden has had his name immortalised in granite as part of a new "comedy carpet" in front of Blackpool Tower.

The 77-year-old comedian said he was "gobsmacked" at the news.

And he is in side-splittingly good company with more than 1,000 comedians from the last 100 years – from Max West to Matt Lucas.

The Black Country star, who is still performing despite battling against Parkinson's Disease, only knew he featured on the 2,200 square metre piece of art when a friend returned from Blackpool and told him they had seen his name on it.

And he doesn't mind at all that millions of people are likely to walk all over him in future decades, or even centuries, as his name features alongside his comedy heroes Ken Dodd and Frankie Howerd, as well as Spike Milligan, Peter Cook and Morecambe and Wise.

On his own particular "slab" of the incredible work of art, close to a "Monty Python" section, are comedians near to him alphabetically, including Frank Muir, Al Murray and



Tommy Munden – happy

Neil Morrissey. "It's bostin' news and I'm gobsmacked and really chuffed

that people are now walking all over me," said Tommy, who lives with his wife, Val, in Alexandra Road, Halesowen.

"I've only ever performed in Blackpool three times – more than 10 years ago at private functions for something like the George Formby Society's annual dinner. So to feature alongside all those famous comedians is a surprise to me."

Artist Gordon Young and designer Andy Altmann have been creating the artwork which is the centrepiece of the new headland under Blackpool Tower, over the last five years. It is made from more than 180,000 pieces of granite letters set in concrete blocks and was launched by Ken Dodd.

Mr Young said: "We wanted to mark the fact so many wonderful British and international comedians had appeared in Blackpool. With the help of local expert Barry Band we were able to find almost 1,000 funny men and women who had performed in Blackpool, including Tommy Munden, and their contribution to entertainment history is now set in stone."

Former Miss Universe's last dance

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A former Miss Universe from the Midlands is finally hanging up her rock 'n' roll dresses – after becoming a grandmother.

Chris Charles has been organising dances for good causes for a decade.

She has helped raise thousands for charity but is to stage her final event on Friday.

The 65-year-old, from Prestwood, near Stourbridge, now wants to spend more time with her family following the birth of grandson Liam on September 30.

Her final fundraiser will be held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall. A beneficiary this year will be the brain tumour research group at Birmingham University.

Proved

Chris, who won the Miss Universe competition in 1972, organised her first dance as a reunion for people who used to attend rock 'n' roll events at Wordsley's Richardson Hall.

It proved so successful more events were held. But Chris believes it is now time for her to take a break.

She said: "The dances have been really popular and I will be really sad when my last event comes around."

"However, with the birth of my grandson Liam I really want to spend more time with him and my daughter Jane."

Tickets for the fundraiser are £10 and are available on 07870 312281.



Chris Charles, now a 65-year-old grandmother and, below, winning the Miss Britain title in 1972



Students' festive diner

CATERING students at Halesowen College will be cooking up a festive feast to mark the launch of their Christmas menu.

First and second year students will transform their training restaurant and serve an array of traditional and creative treats from December 7 to 9 and December 13 to 16.

Clare Abson, restaurant trainer and assessor, said: "Come and relax into Christmas with your friends, family and work colleagues and enjoy a truly festive feast."

Guests should arrive for a pre-dinner aperitif at 6.45pm ready for dinner to be served at 7pm.

Meals are £14.95 per person. For more details call the booking centre between 8am and 5pm on 0121 602 7851 or 0121 602 7777 ext 211 between 5pm and 9pm.

Seasonal blast from band

A BRASS band in Halesowen will raise the roof of a church for a seasonal performance in the run-up to their 25th anniversary.

Halesowen Brass Band will perform a host of traditional carols at Overend Methodist Mission, on Banners Street, at 6pm, on Sunday December 4.

Organiser Margaret Bradley said: "We are particularly fortunate in having our own band in Halesowen. This is a wonderful opportunity for people to get into the Christmas spirit."

The concert is free but donations for the band are encouraged.

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They are quite lively, they are good fun – especially in the wet, says Chris, 25

Once they were 'nerdy' cars now they have youth appeal

CHRIS Whitehouse was barely born when the last Ford Capri rolled off the production line in December 1986.

This year he bought his third Capri, seven years after picking up his first at the tender age of 18.

"Drivers of modern cars would be surprised if they drove one of these, especially in the wet," he says. "They are quite lively, they are good fun."

The 25-year-old HGV driver is one of a growing number of young motorists who are turning to older cars. A survey

Once old cars were the Cinderellas of garage forecourts. Now young Black Country drivers tell **MARK ANDREWS** why they can't get enough of them

by breakdown company Britannia Rescue revealed that older cars, including many once considered unfashionable or "nerdy", are among the most popular with drivers under the age of 40.

A few years ago it would have been hard to imagine the Capri – the preferred transport of Terry McCann out of *Minder* – as being a popular choice

among the younger set. Del Boy, in *Only Fools and Horses* also owned a Capri.

"One or two people have called me Del Boy," admits Chris, from Halesowen Road, Rowley Regis.

But soaring insurance costs, coupled with the simple mechanics and low depreciation of older cars, has led to a surge in demand for cars from the 1970s and 80s.

And many image conscious youngsters have cottoned on to the fact that an older car, even a run-of-the-mill motor such as a Vauxhall Cavalier or Ford Sierra, will cut far more of a dash than the lookalike vehicles of today.

"I've always had a thing for Capris. I just like the shape," says Chris, who also has a modern Volvo.

"I get far more people look at me in the Capri than I do in the Volvo, and that is all body-kitted up," he says.

"But for a lot of young people it is the cost of insurance. When you hit 21 the

classic car insurance kicks in, and it's the difference between paying £300 and three grand.

"Also, the prices are shooting up. If you buy a Corsa or something, it's worth next to nothing when you come to sell."

Another youngster who has caught on to the appeal of classic motoring is 17-year-old Sam Rodgers from Brierley Hill, near Dudley, who spent two-and-a-half years restoring his 1989 Mini with the help of his father.

"At first, when I was growing up, I wanted a Clio or something like that, but by the time I was 14 I really wanted a Mini," says Sam, who is studying for his A-levels at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge.

"My dad said if I really wanted one I could have one, but we would have to do it ourselves."

"We paid £100 for it, and then every night we had free we were out in the garage working on it. More young people are looking at older cars, but it has to be a particular type."

"There is a lad I was at school with, he's got a Mini now, and there is someone at college who has got an old Beetle."

Brett Guest, a chef from the Kates



Chris Whitehouse, aged 25, with his Ford Capri – "they are good fun"

Hill area of Dudley, was 30 years old when he bought his 1966 Mk1 Ford Cortina five years ago.

"Every time you fill up with petrol it takes you half an hour, because everybody wants to talk to you about it," he says.

"If you look at modern cars today, they all look the same. A few years ago the Subaru Impreza had its own shape, but now if you park a Subaru Impreza, a Seat Leon and a Ford Focus ST next to one another, it would be hard to tell which was which."

Now 35, Brett says his 15-year-old son will eventually inherit his immaculate Cortina.

Television and film exposure could be another reason why some seemingly unlikely cars have become the must-have thing among the younger generation.

A few years ago the Honda Civic was not a car that would normally be associated with youth culture.

While praised for its engineering

and durability, it suffered from an "old man's car image" – perhaps not helped by its appearance as Victor Meldrew's car in *One Foot In The Grave*.

But the 2001-2003 Civic tops the poll of "geek chic" cars in Britannia Rescue survey, with 45 per cent of classic car dealers reporting renewed interest in the car following an appearance in the film *The Fast and The Furious*.

However, the 1,115 drivers aged 18 to 38 who took part in the survey said their liking for older cars had nothing to do with their celebrity status, and was more to do with style (19 per cent) and low depreciation (18 per cent).

Even the much-derided Austin Maxi seems to be gaining a new lease of life.

"A lad over the road has got a Maxi, it has been in his family since about 1973," says Brett.

"He put it up for sale a while ago and he was over-run with kids wanting to buy it. In the end he decided he couldn't part with it."

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This musical is a real dream

Dreamboats and Petticoats, Grand Theatre

MOST of them weren't born when the music was released but this young troupe really came of age in this musical.

Dreamboats and Petticoats delighted Wolverhampton's packed Grand Theatre as the audience joined in with all their favourite hits, swept along by the chance to relive the golden 60s musical era.

The stage was fairly basic but that was all that was needed, the story was told through the songs and they came thick and fast. Featuring hits

from the era of Roy Orbison, The Shadows, Eddie Cochran, Billy Fury, Chuck Berry and many more, Dreamboats and Petticoats takes you back an age when rock 'n' roll ruled.

Featuring songs such as To Know Me Is To Love Him, Little Town Flint and Happy Birthday Sweet 16 it told the story of how in 1961 emotions ran high as talented young musicians Norman and Bobby competed to win the hearts of their adoring female fans, and more importantly Laura. But when Laura shows her musical

talent, fame beckons. David Ribi as the geeky Bobby - who was almost Frank Spencer-like in his mannerisms - and Samantha Dorrance as Laura were superb, in fact the whole cast give 100 per cent.

Inspired by the smash hit multi-million selling albums, Dreamboats and Petticoats 1 to 4, the West End sell-out sensation Dreamboats and Petticoats is back at the Grand by popular demand and runs until Saturday December 3.

SUE ATTWATER

The Staves, Glee Club (Studio), Birmingham

If you are always a little bit bah humbug in the lead up to the festive season there is an ideal way to put yourself in the Christmas spirit - a trip to see The Nutcracker. This ballet is always a favourite at this time of year and you can see why. The huge Christmas tree which covers nearly half the stage spreads cheer and the dancing is simply a gift!

Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker performed by the Birmingham Royal Ballet at the city's Hippodrome theatre until Sunday, December 11 and really is a must see. Sir Peter himself was there on the opening night celebrating his 85th birthday and he was certainly in for a treat. It is easy to let yourself get swept up in the excitement of Christmas with this Tchaikovsky classic.

For young girl Clara at Christmas all her dreams come true? After sneaking downstairs at midnight to play with her new Nutcracker doll, she is swept up in a fantasy of toy soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery.

After saving her Nutcracker doll from the King of the Rats, she is 'flown' into an enchanted land meeting a host of strange and exotic characters, before she is finally transformed into a beautiful ballerina and dances with The Prince. The night passes in a blur and she wakes up on Christmas morning at the foot of the Christmas tree.

The first half combines drama with dance but the second half is solely a showcase of the wonderful dancing with brilliant performances in particular by Nao Sakuma as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Jamie Bond as The Prince, Robert Parker as Drosselmeyer, the magician and Carol Anne Miller as Clara with enchanting performance from the 'toys' as they perform for Clara.

The scenery is very convincing and the effects quite enchanting. Book yourself an early gift with a ticket for this production.

SUE ATTWATER

Not since the Corrs has there been a talented family that could take the folk scene by storm but there is now. They are three sisters: Emily - vocals, Camilla - vocals and ukulele and Jessica Staveley - vocals and guitar, collectively and appropriately called The Staves.

Although the trio have already played Glastonbury, they are still very much an up-and-coming band but they have the stage presence and ability to be big.

The sisters' harmonising is a sheer delight and their crystal clear tones, notwithstanding a piece of lodged crystal annoying Emily, lift you to another place.

As you would expect their repertoire is limited at the moment, with their first album yet to be put together, so you have to be content with a couple of EPs but what they have got is perfect in its execution and wonderfully enjoyable. The sisters sing together like they can communicate telepathically, demonstrated with precision on Fire, a ballad which builds up slowly to eventually catch you unawares and before you know it has you tapping your feet.

With Camilla showing her ukulele skills on Facing West and then switching to Jes leading on the guitar on I Try they perform more like a seasoned band than one which is as yet unsigned.

They kept the appreciative audience at the Glee wanting more with the title track of their EP Mexico, Icarus and Gone Tomorrow, among others coming back for the encore and playing, what could well become their signature tune, Silver Dagger. The Staves are definitely one to watch.

Also, certainly worthy of mention was support act Katie Rose Bennett whose jaunty, thoughtful and clever lyrics were a delight to the senses.

DANNY FARRAGHER

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Santa's Christmas train, the Merry Hill Express

FAMILIES are being given the chance to get into the festive spirit at Merry Hill Shopping Centre's Christmas Grotto, which is open to shoppers until Christmas Eve.

The centre has been transformed into a winter wonderland with the arrival of the grotto which features a whole host of festive activities, including cheeky penguins and interactive games created especially by Santa's elves.

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Cancer patients' bus axed to save money

HUNDREDS of people, including cancer sufferers travelling for radiotherapy, will be hit as a hard-up charity cuts its bus service between Sandwell and Birmingham.

The Murray Hall Community Trust is stopping the Bridges Support Service for people having cancer treatment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Edgbaston after it overspent by £80,000. Changes will affect 470 people, the trust said – although patients will still be able to travel to Sandwell, City, Rowley Regis and Russells Hall hospitals.

Trust chiefs said stopping the service would only save £20,000 – a quarter of the money it needs to save – and it is not certain how they will balance the books.

Cancer survivor Arnold Farrington, aged 76, of Oldbury,

sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk
said: "The NHS has done me proud but this decision makes it seem as though the people making the decisions are not concerned for the people going through all this."

Manjula Patel, health services manager for Murray Hall, said: "We have asked the primary care trust for more funding but they have money set aside in their budget as well."

Grant

Spokeswoman Laura Broster said it already funded patient transport services from hospitals in the borough and to City Hospital at Winslow Green.

Murray Hall now plans to apply for a Macmillan Cancer Support grant on behalf of every patient they can in a bid to help fund alternative transport.

Investigation after passengers stranded at Austrian airport

AN AIRLINE boss has promised to investigate reports that passengers travelling from India were stranded in Austria until they had a whip round to pay an extra £20,000 towards the cost of completing their journey to Birmingham Airport.

It also led to angry scenes at a Smethwick travel agents' shop.

Those on board said they were "held to ransom" for six hours in Vienna. It came after a flight with Austrian airline Comtel Air from Amritsar in India stopped to refuel.

Passengers, many from the West Midlands, told how they had to hand over about £20,000 to pay for the rest of the journey and cover the landing tax. More than 180 passengers got back to Birmingham three days later than planned.

Comtel Air's director of passenger services Bhuinder Kandu said: "It shouldn't have happened and I will investigate why it happened. The people who had to pay the money will receive a refund."

Asked if the company was going bust, he said:

Mass zumba boost for charities

AROUND 300 people took part in a charity zumba event in Birmingham. Participants danced for three hours at the Aston Arena.

The amount raised is expected to be about £3,000. Acorns Children's Hospice, Cancer Research UK, the Refuge for Women and Children and Global Children's trust are all set to benefit.

Jurisdiction

Birmingham Airport spokesman Daniel Scaife said: "Comtel Air has a contractual arrangement with an approved airline to operate this service."

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said: "It is an Austrian airline, so we have no direct jurisdiction over it."

"We are looking to see if people who bought their holiday in Britain bought it through an ATOL-licensed tour operator."

"If they did, that tour operator needs to step in to arrange new flights for them."

Sandwell Lions had earlier donated £200 to Sandwell Valley Park for the purchase of spades and gloves.

Lions roar into action for valley

A PRIDE of Lions armed with spades descend on Sandwell Valley Country Park for their Help the Environment Day.

The charity-supported Lions club members planted more than 950 saplings of various types.

Paul Murphy of Sandwell Lions said: "Part of our club's service activity this year is caring for our environment. Trees are like the lungs of the planet, breathing in carbon dioxide and breathing out oxygen. They also reduce erosion to save soil, help preserve local water sources and provide habitat for wildlife."

Sandwell Lions had earlier donated £200 to Sandwell Valley Park for the purchase of spades and gloves.



Rugby legend Austin Healey working with pupils, from left, Ellesse Thomas, 14, Jess Perry, 13, Taku Mudere, 15, Jack Rollinson, 13, at the RSA Academy in Tipton

Nurse call for ill staff wanting sick day

A PILOT scheme to cut absences at Sandwell Council, where workers ring nurses directly instead of their manager, will be rolled out across the whole authority by Christmas.

Last year's absence figures showed staff took an average of 10 days off each.

Staff in the adult social care department then became the first to trial a scheme under which they will ring an occupational health advisor, a qualified nurse, instead of their line manager to call in sick.

The move comes after latest figures showed employees took an average of 9.66 days off each in 2010/11. The national average is about eight days.

Now council chief executive Jan Britton has said the scheme could be in place for the whole authority by Christmas.

Private

He said: "The pilot project in adults is going well and the plan is to roll this new system out to the rest of the council before Christmas."

The average figure of 9.66 days absence per council worker is down on figures for 2009/10. In that year the authority's staff took an average of 10.58 days off sick, and five years ago employees took an average of 14 days each.

Last figures place national sickness absence for councils at around eight days per employee while in the private sector average absence stands at between six and six-and-a-half days per employee.

Rugby masterclass

TEENAGERS in Tipton have been getting a masterclass in rugby from Austin Healey.

The 38-year-old, who played for England and Leicester Tigers, was at RSA Academy along with three players from Worcestershire Warriors.

They were teaching students at the academy, which only started rugby coaching last year, basic skills including how to pass, tackle and evade a tackle.

The visit was arranged by sports teacher John Anderson with help from sports television channel ESPN.

The school's Lesley James said: "The kids had a brilliant time and have benefited from some top quality coaching."

Staff at the Bilton Road school are now trying to organise for Healey, who took part in the sixth series of Strictly Come Dancing in 2008, to return to the school for more coaching in the summer.

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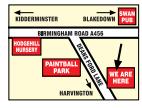
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Cracking contraptions and marvellous manuals

HAYNES workshop manuals have long been a mainstay of an amateur car mechanic's garage or workshop but in recent year the respected imprint has diversified into other areas, including out-and-out fantasy engineering. Here's a round-up of several new Haynes titles, for vehicles both real and imagined.

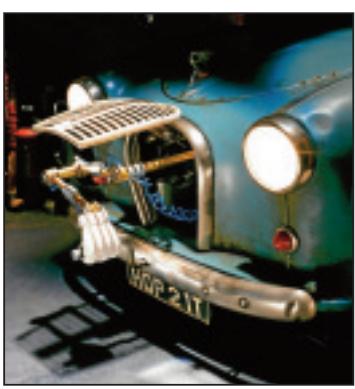
Green's work on the MG, first published in 1998, has been updated by motoring journalist Andrew Roberts.

Routemaster Bus: 1954 onwards (all marks) (£21.99)

This enthusiast's manual celebrates the classic red double-decker that became an icon of London and served the capital for more than half a century.

The much-detested bendy buses certainly never replaced the Routemaster in the hearts of Londoners and some might say Britain has never been quite the same since they were finally retired from service in 2005.

Co-founder of the Routemaster Association Andrew Morgan must have considered putting this book together a labour of love, he even owns a rare single-decker Routemaster.



Self-cracking, how ingenious!

Wallace & Gromit: Cracking Contraptions Manual 2 (£12.99)

From the Van 6000 to the Mind Manipulation-o-matic via the LAD (Labour Assisting Device), another selection of barmy creations from the wonderful world of Wallace and Gromit are brought to life with detailed technical descriptions. A collaboration between Haynes and Aardman animation.

MG: Britain's Favourite Sports Car (£25)

The third edition in the Haynes Classic Makes Series pays homage to the pride of Longbridge. Handsomely illustrated and rich in detail, enthusiast Malcolm

Millennium Falcon: Modified YT-1300 Corellian Freighter (£14.99)

With the exception of the USS Enterprise (which has also had the Haynes treatment), there can be no space ship more famous in the annals of science fiction than Han Solo and Chewbacca's craft from the Star Wars movies.

The souped-up freighter is explored in meticulous detail in this manual approved by Lucasfilm and created by a team of Star Wars devotees.

Driving Games: From Gran Trak 10 to Gran Turismo (£9.99)

It is fitting that an imprint so associated with the mechanics of the motor car has seen fit to cast its expert eye over the evolution of the driving genre in video games.

Fifty of the best releases are selected, from arcade and home

MILLENNIUM FALCON

Modified YT-1300 Corellian Freighter

Owner's Workshop Manual



console releases, ranging from the very basic Chequered Flag for the ZX Spectrum in 1983 to Forza Motorsport 2 for the Xbox 360.

But don't expect it to be bang up to date, this was put together in 2008.

LB

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James Bond: Quantum of Solace



Elton John

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'Tis the season to get gaming

HERE'S a round-up of the more family-friendly console games available this festive season.

The Kinect add-on is really beginning to take off with Xbox 360 users. As well as turning the X360 into a Wii-style console, it is also set to become a futuristic aid to operating the console, particularly as Microsoft's device is set to become even more of an entertainment centre.

Before Christmas, an Xbox Live update promises to make every Xbox 360 feel brand new with a fresh dashboard incorporating voice control and gestures for navigating via the Kinect sensor. There will be applications for catch-up TV and movies on demand, internet video, social networking and Cloud storage for game saves and each Live member profile.

Kinect Sports Season Two

The developers have listened to sports fans and have introduced six new sports to Kinect - skiing, darts, tennis, golf, baseball and American football. All six allow two to four players in either turn-based or simultaneous play. There are also lots of mini-games, known as 'activities', at which you can also challenge your friends whether they are in the room with you or somewhere else in the world via Xbox Live. There is also an in-game calorie counter if you want to use Kinect Sports Season 2 to burn off the festive excesses.

Kinectimals: Now With Bears

The sequel to the best-selling kids' title for Kinect is bound to be another hit with the introduction of cuddly bear cubs. Though you can still opt to adopt a playful cat if you prefer. No ordinary moggy, mind you, the choice includes lions, tigers, panther, cheetah and leopard. The bear necessities



Exploring the Disney Universe

include panda, black bear, grizzly, cinnamon and polar bears. Care for them, teach them tricks and even talk to your exotic pet.

Dance Central 2

Get the party started as the delicious dance title - the Kinect's no! dance game - returns with more moves, more songs and promises more fun. New songs include Grenade by Bruno Mars, Born This Way by Lady Gaga, Rude Boy by Rihanna and Willow's Whip My Hair. Now it has two-player simultaneous multiplayer... so make sure you clear plenty of room in front of the telly!



Minnie me - suited up ready to explore the Disney Universe

Disneyland Adventure

Go on a virtual trip to the many worlds of the Disneyland park, meet and greet your favourite Disney characters, explore real iconic park locations and engage in up to 100 quests, with the Kinect adding that extra pinch of pixie dust.

Disney Universe

More Disney magic with a mischievous twist is available in this non-Kinect title where you can suit up in an outfit based on your favourite Disney or Pixar character for a Little Big Planet/Lego style romp through levels drawn from classic Disney movies, both animated and live action.

Lego Harry Potter: Years 5-7

This is also a non-Kinect title but the witty Lego take on the Harry Potter saga is great fun and here reaches its big finale, the showdown between Harry and Voldemort.

Games reviewed on Xbox 360, Disney Universe and Lego Harry Potter are also available for other formats.

Calling all Batman fans

BradyGames have published probably their most handsome title yet in their strategy guide Signature Series with Batman Arkham City (£12.99). It is a complete walk-through of the entire new Batman game with every area of Arkham City mapped while every super-villain gets a biography. Not just a good guide to one of the year's top games but a good tie-in souvenir in its own right.

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BBC1

9.00 Breakfast 10.00 Saturday Kitchen. Live. 10.20 Home Cooking Made Easy (F) 10.30 BBC News, Regional News: Weather. 10.45 Football Focus 10.50 Live Snooker: UK Championship, including John Higgins/Rory McLeod. 10.55 Live International Rugby/Union: Wales v Australia (Kid's 2.00pm) 10.55 Final Score. 11.00 BBC News, Regional News: Weather. 11.00 A Question of Sport (F)

9.00 *Light's the Night*. With Colin Montgomerie and Matt Baker. Last in the series. 10.00 *Cinema Crawl*. Bruce Forsyth and Teena Dally host a movie-themed special, in which the six remaining contestants vie for a place in next week's semi-final with dances celebrating the olive screen. 10.00 *The Knights*. The knights stumble across an eerie shrine deep in the forest. 10.00 *Charity*. Part one of two. Ruthie old incurable recurrence. 10.20 *The National Lottery*. Saturday Night Draw. Jemima Fairburn announces the all-important numbers. 10.20 *BB-Clown's Ventured*. 10.20 *Elton of the Day*. Including Highlights of Action Villas, Manchester United; National Lottery Update. 10.40 *The Football League*. Shows highlights of football games in the Championship.

10.45 *Film Minis*. (1987) Horror, starring Mira Sorvino and Jeremy Northam. 11.00 *Weatherview*. 11.00 BBC News.

BBC2

9.00 *CBeebies*. 10.00 *CBBC*. 10.20 *Film Princess Patti*. (1940) Drama, starring Ginger Rogers and Joel McCrea. 10.30 *Film: The Master of Ballantrae*. (1933) Adventure, starring Errol Flynn. 10.35 *Hairy Biker: Best of British*. 10.40 *Live Snooker: UK Championship*. The best-of-tit-for-tit round matches. 10.45 *Espresso County* (F).

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10.00 *Play It*. The team visits the Isle of Wight, where they discover 'small' really is beautiful, and Paul Martin gets call in a habitat record-breaking seal. 10.00 *It's A Zoo*. First-ever episode of the classic comedy. (F) 10.00 *Yours of the Palladium*. Famous faces reminisce about the theatre. (F) 10.00 *90111*. With Jo Brand, David Mitchell and Phil Jupitus. (F) 10.00 *Fun At*. Kate tries to cover her relationship with Nick. 10.00 *Fun At*. Dean is forced to make an emergency landing in Hull. 10.00 *Rev*. The new teacher at the church school turns out to be an atheist. (F) 10.00 *Super UK*. Championship.

10.45 *Snooker: UK Championship Extra*. Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights from today's matches. 11.00 *Clock*.

ITV1

9.00 *CITV Mini CITV*. 10.00 *CITV*. 10.20 *Coronation Street*. 10.20 *This Morning*. Saturday. 10.20 *ITV News: Weather*. 10.25 *You've Been Framed* (F) 10.30 *Film: Small Soldiers*. (1998) Children's adventure, with Kristen Dandridge. 10.35 *Film: The Mummy*. (1999) Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. 10.40 *Regional Programmes*. 10.45 *ITV News: Weather*.

10.00 *The Chase*. 10.00 *How We've Been*. Presented by a panel of famous personalities. 10.00 *ITV's TV Biggy*. The funniest moments from previous series. 10.00 *The P Factor*. The four remaining acts perform two songs each as they battle it out for a place in next week's final and the chance to win a recording contract. The results can be seen tomorrow at 8pm.

10.00 *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* Viewers choose this year's winner. Last in the series.

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10.00 *ITV News Weather*. 10.00 *PA City High Lights*. Action from today's second-round ties. 10.00 *The Chase*. A student and a Geordie mother take part. (F)

10.45 *The Zone*. ITV News Headline. 10.45 *Kojak*. (F) 11.00 *ITV Nightbeat*. 11.00 *ITV Morning News*.

Channel 4

9.00 *Salt Mai*. (F) 9.30 *The Hobo*. (F) 9.45 *Extreme Sailing Series*. 10.00 *Great Ethiopian Run*. 10.05 *The Morning Line*. 10.10 *Tic Snashaw*. (F) 10.15 *Tic Made in Chelsea*—End of Season Party. 10.15 *T4*. 10.20 *Extreme Sailing Series*. 10.25 *ITV News: Weather*. 10.30 *ITV's TV Biggy*. 10.35 *ITV News: Weather*. 10.40 *ITV's TV Biggy*. 10.45 *Film: My Sky*. (2008) Comedy, starring Colin Hanks and Meg Ryan. 10.50 *Film: Sleepless in Seattle*. (1993) Romantic comedy, with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. 10.55 *Film: Goodbye, Mr. Chips*. (1939) comedy, co-starring Bill Murray.

10.00 *Come Dine with Me*.

BBC1 host's the final dinner party in Doncaster. (F)

10.00 *An Audience with Bob Hoskins*. The comedian entertains a celebrity audience, including John Mills, Michael Stipe, Jeremy Beadle, Linda Robson, Gabby Roslin and Bobby Davro in a show recorded in 1994. (F)

10.00 *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. A detective is suspected of murdering a police officer. Last in the series.

10.00 *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*. Two men seemingly come back from the dead. (F) 11.00 *Inside Hollywood*.

10.00 *Super Casino*. 10.00 *Great Artists*. (F) 10.15 *Divine Design*. (F) 10.30 *Rough Guide to Eco Ecotips*. (F) 10.30 *Handy Helpin'*. (F) 10.45 *The Milkshake Show*. (F) 10.50 *Thomas & Friends*. (F) 10.55 *Roary the Racing Car*. (F)

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Digital

ITV1 0.50 *All Star Family Fortunes*. 9.30 *The Cube*. 5.50 *Film: Calvary*. (2004) Superhero adventure, starring Liam Neeson. 8.00 *Home from Hell*. 9.00 *Grindelwald*. 9.00 *The Extra Factor*. 10.00 *In a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now!*. 10.00 *Harry Hill's TV Burp*.

ITV2 6.05 *Agatha Christie's Marple*. 8.00 *Docklands*. 9.00 *Foxed*. 10.00 *Number 11*. *Suburbia*

ITV3 10.00 *Trunk: The ABCD1 Murders*. 5.00 *Great Clips*. 5.05 *Film: The Great Cubbies*. (1938) Comedy, starring John Candy. 2.00 *Eye Think This House v Greg Rutherford*. 10.00 *Legal Weapon*. (1987) Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

BBC THREE

10.00 *Great White Hobbies*. 8.00 *Top Gear*. 0.00 *Russell Howard's Good News*. Extra 0.95 *Film: Meet the Parents*. (2004) 10.00 *Family Guy*.

BBC FOUR

2.00 *Whodunnit*. 8.00 *Art of America*. 0.00 *The Killing II*. 11.00 *The Step*. 11.55 *Top of the Pops*. 11.78

IT

0.00 *Desperate Scoundrels*. 9.35 *Film: Dead in the Hole*. (2008) Christmas comedy starring Danny DeVito and Matthew Broderick. 6.25 *The Big Bang Theory*. 10.00 *Happy Endings*. 8.00 *How I Met Your Mother*. 8.00 *The Big Bang Theory*. 0.00 *Felicity*. 10.00 *Film: 25 Years Later*. (2007) Horror sequel, starring Robert Carlyle.

ITV3

2.00 *Homie*. (1987) Western, with Paul Newman, Ridley Scott and Diane Keaton. 5.00 *Life in Leith*. (2003) Romantic drama, starring Judi Dench and Maggie Smith. 6.25 *Silver Streak*. (1976) Comedy thriller, with Gene Wilder and Riddick Bowe. 8.00 *Vanilla Sky*. (2001) 10.30 *The Host*. (2006)

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9.00 Breakfast 9.00 Match of the Day (F) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show 9.00 Fern Britton Selects Katherine Jenkins 9.00 Country Tackles Weather for the Week Ahead 9.00 The Politics Show 9.15 EastEnders 9.15 Frozen Planet (F) 9.15 Frozen Planet (F) 9.15 Points of View 9.20 Songs of Praise.

9.30 BBC Children's Regional News Weekend

9.35 Coronation Street: How the Vote of Accepting has inspired authors.

9.35 Strictly Come Dancing. The quarter-final recruit is announced.

9.40 Antiques Roadshow. From Layer Marney Tower, near Colchester in Essex.

9.40 Crime & Law. The last defendant, a man framed for murder by the new police force, has categorised to escape without Lady Sarah, who has disclosed her son and disappeared. End in the series.

9.40 BBC Children's Regional News Weekend

9.45 Nine O'Clock News 9.45 The X Factor (F) 9.45 guest panelists: Boris Becker and Fabrice Brigodeau. (F)

9.50 Would I Lie to You? With Hugh Dennis, Ben Fogle, Kate Shenton and Craig Revel Horwood. (F)

9.50 The City Millie. The outer limit of the color system.

9.55 Film: Amisville III: The Demon. (1988) Horror, with Tony Roberts. 9.55 Weatherfield 9.55 Coronation Street with Chanda Whitehouse. (F) 9.55 Hollyoaks 9.55 A Farmer's Life for Me. (F) 9.55 BBC News.

BBC2

9.00 CBeebies 9.00 CBBC 9.00 Something for the Weekend 9.00 Party Bites! Best of British (F) 9.15 Escape to the Country: Properties in Wiltshire. (F) 9.15 Rog It! Finger Tip. 9.15 Tracy (F) 9.15 You've Been Framed! (F) 9.15 ITV News/Weather 9.15 All Star Family Fortune. (F) 9.15 FA Cup Football: AFC Toton v Bristol Rovers (kick-off 12.30pm) 9.15 The X Factor (F) 9.15 Midweek Murders (F)

9.20 Regional Programmes.

9.25 ITV News Weekend

9.30 The Chase. A Totsborough woman and a retired man take part, aiming to complete tasks within the confines of the cube to win a jackpot of £500,000.

9.30 The J. P. Seton. Dermot O'Leary announces which three acts are in the final.

9.30 A Night with Beyoncé. Steve Jones presents a one-off special in which the American superstar performs some of her biggest hits as well as tracks from her latest album 4.

9.30 ITV News Weekend

9.35 FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's second-round tie.

ITV1

9.00 ITV: Mini ITV, 9.00 ITV: Mini ITV (F) 9.00 Horn & Henry 9.00 Finger Tip 9.00 Tracy (F) 9.00 You've Been Framed! (F) 9.00 ITV News/Weather 9.00 All Star Family Fortune. (F) 9.00 FA Cup Football: AFC Toton v Bristol Rovers (kick-off 12.30pm) 9.00 The X Factor (F) 9.00 Midweek Murders (F)

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9.20 ITV News Weekend

9.25 FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's second-round tie.

Channel 4

9.00 The Hobo. (F) 9.00 Channel 4 Presents - Lis Johnson 'Magic Number' (F) 9.00 Formula 1 (F) 9.00 Tration. (F) 9.05 Top Gear: One Too Hot. (F) 9.15 Battlefront 9.15 T4: Hollyoaks 9.15 T4: City Music: The Album Chart Show Special 9.15 T4: The Simpsons (F) 9.20 T4: Shattered: The Island 9.20 T4: The Simpsons (F) 9.25 Film: Turner & Hooch (1988) Family comedy, starring Tom Hanks. 9.25 Deal or No Deal. Game show with Noel Edmonds. 9.30 Channel 4 News 9.35 The Political Show 9.35 thoughts 9.35 Film: The Golden Compass. (F) 9.40 Rupert Bear. (F) 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (F) 9.50 The McMenamin Show. (F) 9.55 Hollyoaks (F) 9.55 Family: The Racing Car. (F) 9.55 The Annual Families. (F) 9.55 Inside Hollywood. (F) 9.55 Andre Rieu at the Albert Hall. (F) 9.55 Highland Emergency. (F) 9.55 The Road Trucker. (F) 9.55 Daddies Rockin' (F) 9.55 Film: What About Bob? (1991) Comedy, starring Bill Murray. 9.55 Film: The Fifth Element (1997) Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis. 9.55 Film: Old. (2008) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler.

9.40 The Secret 9.40 Undercover. Property developer Mike Holland goes undercover in Grimsby. End in the series.

9.45 Blood Diamond: The Untold Stories. New series Horror, written by Charlie Brooker, starring Tony Kinsella.

9.50 Abu Chat: Charity Extravaganza. With Patsy Kensit and Warwick Davis.

9.55 Film: Escape from Alcatraz. (1979) Foot-based prison drama, starring Clint Eastwood.

Channel 5

9.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig 9.05 Harry the Racing Car. (F) 9.10 Pitt and the Robotarts. (F) 9.15 French Gants (F) 9.20 Fighting and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (F) 9.25 Castle Farm. (F) 9.30 Film: Oggy (F) 9.35 Rocko's and Custard Too. (F) 9.35 The Milkshake Show 9.40 Milkshake Way for Mucky. (F) 9.45 Ben and Ernest: Great Adventures. (F) 9.50 Little Princess. (F) 9.55 The Adventure of Bobbie Top Bill and His Best Friend Colby. (F) 9.55 Angelina Ballerina 9.55 Film: Oggy 9.55 Rupert Bear. (F) 9.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (F) 9.55 The McMenamin Show. (F) 9.55 Hollyoaks (F) 9.55 Family: The Racing Car. (F) 9.55 The Annual Families. (F) 9.55 Inside Hollywood. (F) 9.55 Andre Rieu at the Albert Hall. (F) 9.55 Highland Emergency. (F) 9.55 The Road Trucker. (F) 9.55 Daddies Rockin' (F) 9.55 Film: What About Bob? (1991) Comedy, starring Bill Murray. 9.55 Film: The Fifth Element (1997) Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis. 9.55 Film: Old. (2008) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler.

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9.55 Film: Escape from Alcatraz. (1979) Foot-based prison drama, starring Clint Eastwood.

Digital

9.15 Holiday Showdown 9.15 The Planets: Planets & Planets 9.15 The Xtra Factor 9.15 Film: Duplicit (2003) Thriller, starring Julia Roberts and Clive Owen.

9.20 Film: Arthur (1985) Comedy, starring Dudley Moore, Dickie Bird and John Goodman. Including FM Daily 9.25 Film: Bear (1993) Comedy, starring Peter O'Toole 9.30 Film: The Hobbit.

9.30 Film: Festival of Speed 2011 9.30 Live Teams: The A-BOOM! Masters 9.35 Champions Tour Final 9.35 Film: Redefine 9.40 Rugby Union 9.40 Real Crime with Mark Austin 9.45 Film: Enter the Dragon (1973) Martial arts thriller, starring Bruce Lee.

9.45 Film: Great TV Mistakes 9.50 The Worlds Biggest: Formula 1 9.55 Film: The Story of the Diner 9.55 Film: Storyville 9.55 The Intemperies - Herobt Stop a Riot (2010) Premier Documentary following volunteers who try to prevent violence. 9.55 Film: Diner (1982)

9.55 Film: Ew! Film: A Christmas Story (1983) 9.55 Film: The Breakfast Club 9.55 Sonny & Cher 9.55 Santa 9.55 Film: Xanadu: The Last Stand (2006) 9.55 Film: Tool Academy

9.55 Film: McAbberd (1988) 9.55 The African Queen (1951) 9.55 Angels All the Way (1990) 9.55 The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) 9.55 Santa 9.55 Film: Xanadu: The Last Stand (2006) 9.55 Tool Academy

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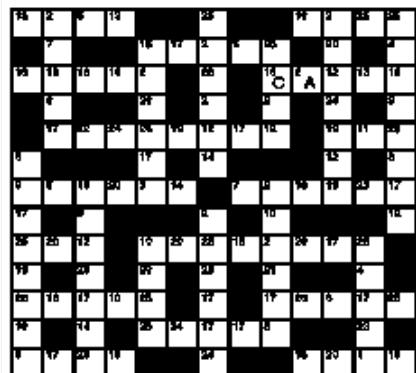
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Brain Gym

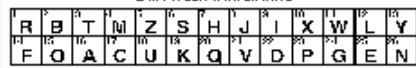
No.145

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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Double Crossword

Choose either quicker or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

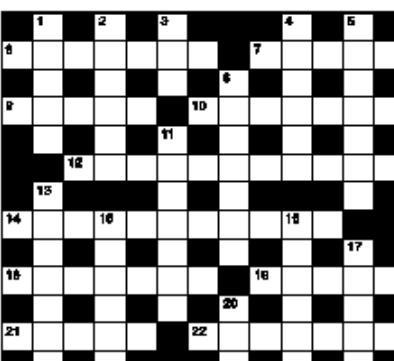
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- I am going around in torn clothing (7)
- A little preparation, not long lasting (5)
- Alman branched into a sort of villa (5)
- Not always brief (3)
- As he got confused, he was captured (7)
- Not plain stupid, apparently (6,5)
- What an accusation of body snatching could be? (5,6)
- A dear old thing, perhaps (7)
- A rule some of us are ignoring (5)
- This age is very far from that class (5)
- Songs on the head (7)
- Bill that returns in winter generally (5)
- Naturally I look retirement (8)

Down

- The ghost of William Shakespeare, some say (5)
- Ham with tallow meat (6)
- Finch within ten days (3)
- Not always brief (3)
- They hold records in books (7)
- A struggle to maintain birth (4,3)
- All may be so convicted (5,2)
- Stone from Tangier (7)
- Such a threat is hardly threatened (6)
- They are especially prepared for putting on (5)
- Bird that returns in winter generally (5)
- Naturally I look retirement (8)

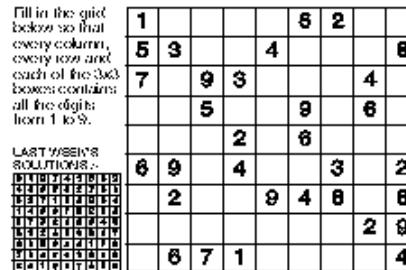


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC: Argus, 1 Loggister, 2 Tintagel, 3 Arrows, 10 Pagan, 11 Lee, 13 Siles, 15 Bally, 17 Aire, 18 Indigo, 21 Nind, 22 Dore, 23 Loughrigg, 25 Ouse, 1 Dule, 2 Grahame, 38 Ward, 4 Aire, 5 Ouse, 6 Stile, 7 Dore, 8 Sylph, 12 Southron, 14 Innuendo, 18 Pardon, 19 Ouse, 20 Aire, 21 GUCH, 22 Arundel, 1 Bremhill, 7 Royal, 8 Ouse, 10 Unite, 11 Euse, 13 Ouse, 15 Euse, 17 Ouse, 18 River, 21 Wrekin, 22 Aire, 23 Merton, 25 Ouse, 1 Regal, 2 Cuckoo, 3 Euse, 4 Salt, 5 Unite, 6 Grahame, 7 Tindale, 12 Ouse, 14 Pardon, 16 Ward, 19 GUCH, 27 Tindale.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the three boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
1 5 3 4 6 2 7 9 3 5 9 6 2 6 8 9 4 3 2 2 9 4 8 6 7 1 4



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OLDBURY, WYVERN CLOSE

Set in a very quiet cul-de-sac, this modern unfurnished detached home, briefly comprising of Four BedRooms, Master En-Suite. Spacious Lounge, Four Dining Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway and Garage Parking. Front Rear Gardens

£795 PCM



HALESOWEN, MAYFIELD ROAD

A nice opportunity to get this large fully furnished modern style semi-detached house with outside heated swimming pool (8ft x 30ft) (empty during winter months). Situated in the popular area of Halesowen, comprises of: Three Good Sized BedRooms, Two Reception Rooms, Great Fitted Kitchen, House Bathrooms with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Large Rear Garden, Driveway Parking and Garage. Unfurnished

£795 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, BARRS ROAD

A beautifully presented traditional detached house, located on a very popular road, comprising of: Three Good Sized BedRooms, Two Reception Rooms, Large Fitted Kitchen, House Bathrooms with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Large Rear Garden, Driveway Parking and Garage. Unfurnished

£750 PCM



HALESOWEN, SHENSTONE AVENUE

A 3 bedroom semi-detached house in the popular area of Lapal. Comprises of: Two Reception Rooms, Extended Kitchen, Guests WC, Three Good Sized BedRooms, Bathrooms with Separate Shower Cubicle, Garage, Extensive Gardens with Stunning View over Leasowes Park, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Close to Schools.

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, YEWTOP, MELBOURNE ROAD

Within walking distance to Halesowen, is this three story town house. Well presented, in need of some updating inside and out. A nice quiet cul-de-sac location. Briefly comprising of: Three Large BedRooms, Large Open Plan Kitchen, Very Large Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathrooms with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking for 2 Cars and Garage. Close to local Schools and College.

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, SUMMERFIELDS AVENUE

Large location in West Green, close to popular school, motorway access and convenience. Briefly comprising of: Three Large BedRooms, Large Open Plan Kitchen, Two Separate Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathrooms with Shower, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage

£650 PCM



MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

An unfurnished modern three storey townhouse within walking distance to Merry Hill, briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three BedRooms, Master En-Suite, Lounge and Dining Room/Study, Allocated Parking Space

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, HOPE STREET

A superbly presented unfurnished first floor apartment. Situated in a Cul-de-sac location and been fully refurbished, briefly comprises of: Two BedRooms, Lounge, Fantastic Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Very Large Modern Bathroom with Shower, On Road Parking space. Viewing Recommended.

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen. Briefly comprising of: Large Open Plan Living Area with Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two BedRooms, Bathroom with Shower, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage. Unfurnished

£560 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANSELL CLOSE

A beautifully presented semi-detached family home briefly comprising of: Three BedRooms with the Main Bedroom Having Fitted Wardrobes, Spacious Living Room, Modern Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, House Bathroom with Shower, Gardens and 2 Allocated Parking Spaces.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, CLEINT VIEW ROAD

A very spacious semi-detached home has come on the market in a very popular location, briefly comprising of: Three BedRooms, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.

£550 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, MOOR LANE

A large and spacious bungalow with great views from the front, briefly comprises of: Two BedRooms, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, House Bathroom and Tiled Garden. Driveway Parking, Part Furnished to Suit

£550 PCM



OLDBURY, KELLNER GARDENS

A wonderful unfurnished second floor apartment in a quiet spot, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room Through to Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Two BedRooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, House Bathroom, Allocated Parking Space

£495 PCM



QUINTON, LAPAL MANOR COURT

Located in a quiet area and ideal for motorway access is this unfurnished modern first floor, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Open Plan Living Room/Fitted Kitchen, Kitchen with Smeg Appliances, Two BedRooms, Bathroom with Shower, Secure Allocated Parking Space

£495 PCM



DUDLEY, SOUTHGATE WAY

A modern spacious well presented unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Living Room, Two Double BedRooms, Bathroom with Shower, Secure Allocated Parking Space

£485 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MEADOW WALK

A superbly refurbished mid-terrace property comprising of: Two Double BedRooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Bathroom with P-Shaped Bath and Shower, Driveway Parking. Unfurnished, A Must See Property!

£475 PCM



CADER MEEWS, FERGUSON DRIVE

A lovely unfurnished modern second floor apartment, ideally located close to all local amenities and transport links, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Bathroom with Shower, Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Internal Viewing Recommended

£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, KING STREET

A well presented top floor modern apartment, ideally located close to all local amenities and transport links, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking Space

£450 PCM



DUDLEY, BEAN ROAD

A refurbished ground floor flat within easy reach of the town centre, briefly comprising of: Reception Room with Minton Floor, Lounge, Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Double Glazing, and Communal Parking

£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

An unfurnished ground floor flat on a popular development, briefly comprising of: Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen (OWN COOKER TO BE PROVIDED), Bathroom with Shower, Lounge, Electric Storage Heating, Parking, Communal garden

£375 PCM



HALESOWEN, WILTSHIRE DRIVE

A spacious unfurnished ground floor maisonette located within a sought after location, and close to Cradley Heath Train Station and local buses, briefly comprising of: Fitted Dining Kitchen, Living Room, Bathroom with Shower, One Double Bedroom, Parking Space,

£340 PCM

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A traditional home selling for £149,950

With a price tag of £149,950, this double-fronted traditional two-bedroom end terrace benefits from double glazing and gas central heating with thermostats to all radiators.

The property in New Street, Kingswinford, has been improved and tastefully decorated throughout and briefly comprises a dining room (through room), with woodburner-style gas fire recessed into the chimney breast.

There is a door to the lounge – 11ft 10 in by 10ft 11in – with traditional style fireplace with tiled hearth, wooden Adam style surround, iron back plate with decorative tile inserts and inset living flame effect gas fire.

A door leads to the cellar, with open access into the kitchen which is fitted with a range of white panelled base and wall mounted units with complementary roll edge work surfaces, inset single drainer stainless steel sink with mixer tap, space and plumbing for automatic washing machine, space for gas cooker and further appliance space.

On the same floor is the bathroom,



This double-fronted property is located in New Street, Kingswinford. It maintains many original features

fitted with a white suite of panelled bath with shower attachment over, pedestal wash hand basin and arched way to toilet with low-level flush WC.

On the first floor bedroom one has an en suite cloakroom with wash basin and low-level WC, and there is a second bedroom.

Outside the rear garden has brick pavers to a side gate and slabbed pathway to a paved patio area, with an adjacent lawn with mature pear tree, garden shed and gravelled area, with gated access to a rear drive accessed of Barnett Lane providing of road parking for one car. Call 01384 288188 for details.



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Apperley Way, Halesowen
£395

A well presented 1 bedroom ground floor flat in a sort after area of Halesowen. The property comprises of lounge, kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom with shower. Communal gardens and driveway. The property is located near local bus routes and within walking distance to Cradley Road train station



Bloomfield Street, Halesowen
£530

A modern 2 bedroom house in a popular location. The property comprises of fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, lounge/dining area, bathroom with shower, downstairs toilet and patio area. Allocated parking space. Within walking distance to local amenities and schools. Viewing Essential



Lyttleton Avenue, Halesowen
£530

A well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached in a sort after location. The property briefly comprises of: Fitted Kitchen, Double reception room; Bathroom with shower, Large rear gardens and off road parking. Close to local amenities and schools. Viewing Essential

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Bournes Hill, Halesowen



£170,000 **NEW INSTRUCTION**

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, shower room, driveway and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Harrold Road, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £100,000 **NEW**

A three bedroom mid terraced house, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, parking and rear garden, double glazing and part central heating. No upward chain.

Yew Tree Lane, Rowley Regis



£210,000 **NEW INSTRUCTION**

A four bedroom detached property, comprising dining room, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility, garage, bathroom, en-suite, driveway and rear garden, central heating, double glazing and no upward chain.

Durham Road, Rowley Regis



£47,500 **NEW**

A two bedroom second floor leasehold flat comprising of lounge, kitchen and bathroom

Ely Close, Rowley Regis



£90,000 **NEW**

A two bedroom mid terrace property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, allocated parking, rear garden, double glazing and central heating

Stewarts Road, Halesowen



£120,000 **NEW**

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, garage and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Hollydale Road, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £95,000

A two bedroom end terrace property comprising kitchen, lounge, bathroom, driveway and garage, rear garden, double glazing and central heating. No upward chain.

Highbury Avenue, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £200,000

A five bedroom detached house comprising extended lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, utility, garage, first floor bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway, rear garden.

Hawne Lane, Halesowen



£330,000

A five bedroom detached property comprising dining room, lounge, kitchen, garage, bathroom, en-suite, loft room, double glazing and central heating, driveway and rear garden.

Chatsworth Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £150,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, driveway, garage, rear garden and no upward chain.

Sheepfold Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £95,000 **REDUCED**

A two bedroom terraced property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, parking and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

King Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £100,000 **REDUCED**

A three bedroom end terrace property comprising lounge, kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, bathroom, rear garden and double glazing.

Cockshed Lane, Halesowen



£200,000

A three bedroom detached dormer bungalow comprising kitchen, lounge, dining room, garage, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, driveway and rear

Winsford Close, Halesowen



Offers Over £180,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising L-shaped lounge, study, breakfast kitchen, bathroom, gardens to the rear/side and front, timber garage and driveway.

Highfield Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £110,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, shower room, front and rear gardens, garage, central heating and double glazing

Shelton Lane, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, open plan kitchen/diner, bathroom, rear garden and driveway, double glazing and central heating.

Albrighton Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising kitchen, lounge, bathroom, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating. No upward chain.

Howley Grange Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £225,000

A three bedroom semi detached house comprising lounge, conservatory, dining room, kitchen, utility, bathroom, garage, driveway, rear garden, central heating and double glazing. No upward chain,

Abberley Close, Halesowen



£170,000

A four/five property comprising breakfast kitchen, shower room, open plan lounge, bathroom, bedroom, double glazing and central heating

Frankley Avenue, Halesowen



£200,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, bathroom, driveway and garage, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating.

Hill Top Avenue, Halesowen



£100,000

A two bedroom terraced property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway and rear garden

Queens Drive, Rowley Regis



£200,000

A three bedroom detached bungalow comprising lounge, dining room, bathroom, kitchen, garage, driveway and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Willetts Drive, Halesowen



Offers Over £105,000

A two bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, driveway and rear garden. No upward chain.

Regis Road

Land for Sale adjacent to 5 Regis Road, Rowley Regis. Outline Planning for erection of new detached dwelling, planning ref. DC/10/52122. POA £40,000

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AUDI A3 2.0 TDI SE, 07 Reg, 5-dr, Grey Metallic, AC, Alloys, 59k, FSH	SOLD	

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PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI GT 07 Reg, 3-dr, Grey, half leather, AC, Alloys, 48k, FSH	£6295	
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CITROEN NEMO 1.4 MULTISPACE 59 Reg, 5-dr, Blue Metallic, 16k, 1 Owner	£6295	
VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN 2.0 TDI SPORT DSG Auto, 06 Reg, 5-dr, 7 seats, AC, Alloys, 61k, FSH	£7495	

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They can be kept in the boot and slipped on to the front set of tyres when needed. From £70 per pair, snow socks provide extra traction to increase grip on snow without causing noise or vibration when driving.

Once the car is back on a clear road, they can be removed and stored in the boot of the car ready for when they need to be used again.

"After several severe winters in a row, we are keen to ensure Honda customers are fully prepared and able to stay mobile where possible," commented Dave Hodgetts, Managing Director of Honda (UK).

"Snow socks offer the perfect combination of affordability and ease of use without the worry of where to store them."

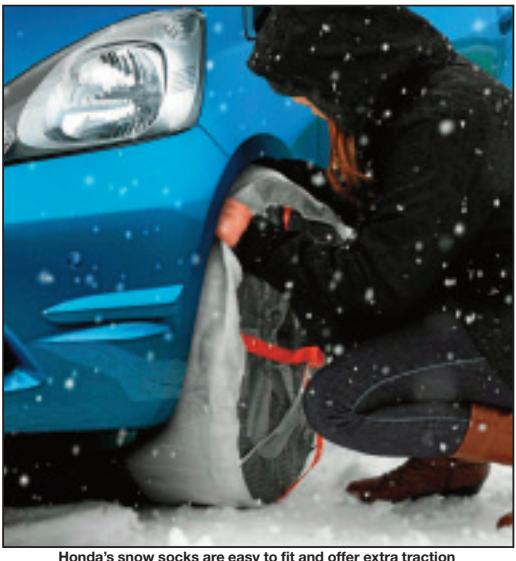
Honda is also offering customers who purchase a set of winter tyres a cost effective storage solution.

For £35 plus VAT, customers buying a winter set can place their spare "summer" ones in secure storage. This cost covers a 12-month period and includes two tyre transfers to/from the Honda dealership – perfect for winter and summer changeovers.

Battery

Honda drivers can make sure their car is in tip-top condition for the cold weather by taking it to a Honda dealer for a reassuring winter health check.

Qualified Honda technicians will inspect the battery, windscreen, tyres, brakes and lights, and will also ensure



Honda's snow socks are easy to fit and offer extra traction

the engine coolant and screenwash are all filled up.

The winter health check costs just £40 and customers will receive a complimentary winter safety kit worth £24.99.

This handy pack includes a foldable snow shovel, foil blanket, high-visibility vest and LED torch.

For that added extra piece of mind, drivers can book their car in for a full

winter service. On top of an oil and filter change and checks across the car undertaken by a qualified technician, Honda is also adding a year's complimentary UK roadside assistance worth £99.

To book in for a health check or winter service and to order a set of snow socks visit www.honda.co.uk for further information and to find your nearest Honda dealership.

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Golf
1.4S

£5495 or
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£3195

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£3995

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£3495

£223

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£3195

£21

05 Reg FIAT PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIC Grey, CD, 5-door, Ins Grp 3, 45k

£3495

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£3995

£26

05 Reg FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE Red, Alloys, CD, insurance group 2, 41k

£3695

£24

56 Reg RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI TECH RUN DYNAMIQUE DIESEL Grey, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Tax, FSH

£1695

£36

06 Reg FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 ACTIVE SPORT Silver, Alloys, CD, 3-door, Ins Grp 3, FSH, 47k

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04 Reg FIAT STREET 1.4i RED Silver, Convertible, Red Leather, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH

£2695

£21

04 Reg FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME Orange, Alloys, CD

£3695

£21

06 Reg FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC SILVER, Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, 49k

£1695

£28

06 Reg FORD STREET 1.4i SILVER, Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, 31k

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£1695

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£3695

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£1695

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£3695

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£1695

Backing into good deal on Motability



The new Myvi SXI is offered with an interest free finance package until the end of next month

FREE reverse park control is now available to all Motability customers opting for a new Perodua Myvi during November and December.

This new offer is available across the Myvi range and is completely free of charge to Motability customers whose applications are submitted to and accepted by Motability up to December 31.

The stylish Myvi super-mini, which already has a high specification as standard, will now benefit from reverse park control helping avoid any unwanted bumps and keeping the Myvi in perfect condition.

With competitive weekly payments and no advance payment required across most of the range, the Myvi is

currently available to Motability customers from as little as £46.73 per week.

The Myvi has air conditioning, four electric windows, electric door mirrors, integral radio/CD player, central locking, plus much more as standard.

A four-speed fully automatic version is available from just £49.95 per week.

Practical

The Myvi is incredibly spacious for a super-mini, with a surprising amount of head and leg room allowing five adults to travel comfortably.

Should additional space be required, the Myvi has a practical and simple to use 60:40 split fold-flat rear seat system which transforms the vehicle to carry luggage and bulky items with ease.

Motability customers interested in

benefiting from this new offer are advised to contact their nearest Perodua Motability dealer whose details can be found by visiting www.peroduauk.com or by calling 01491 415230.

Perodua is also offering interest free finance to customers purchasing a new Myvi SXI between now and the end of December.

This offer means that Myvi SXI customers don't have to part with their hard earned cash all at once or worry about interest charges - simply let Perodua pay the interest for you!

This new offer is valid with a specific finance deal which works with a 50 per cent deposit of £3,499.50 and the balance is repayable over a period of 24 months, with 23 payments of £145.81 and one final payment of £145.87.

 **PERODUA**

0% FINANCE ON MYVI SXI*



0% APR representative

Finance example

Cash price:	£6999.00
Deposit:	£3499.50
Amount of credit:	£3499.50
Credit facility fee:	£0
Option to purchase fee:	£0
Interest:	£0
Total charge for credit:	£0
Total amount payable:	£6999.00
23 monthly payments of:	£145.81
Final payment of:	£145.87
Representative APR:	0%
Rate of interest:	0% fixed

Standard Myvi features include:

- Air conditioning
- Dual airbags
- 5 doors/5 seats
- Integrated radio/CD player
- Four electric windows
- Electric door mirrors
- Metallic or high gloss paintwork
- Plus much more!

Only £6,999¹!

Trinity Motors - 0121 558 3002

High Street, Smethwick, B66 3AJ

* Offer is valid for standard Myvi SXI (manual) only when finance is arranged through Close Motor Finance on the above mentioned finance deal. Finance must be arranged through Close Motor Finance and the finance must be approved by Close Motor Finance by 31st December 2011. Offer is not available in conjunction with any other offer currently available from Perodua. Deposit of £1,000 retail incentive which is repayable deducted from cash price of £6,999.50. Offer is available to mainland UK residents only. Finance deal is subject to a minimum age of 18 years and a valid UK driving licence. Offer is valid until 31st December 2011. Pictures are for illustration purposes only and may differ in specification to actual vehicle sold. Official Government fuel consumption figures (mpg) Myvi SXI: 37.7 Urban; 59.8 Extra Urban; 48.7 Combined. Myvi E2i: 32.8 Urban; 54.3 Extra Urban; 44.1 Combined. CO2 SXI: 137g/km E2i: 151 g/km.

 **BRAND NEW & UNREGISTERED**

**The Suzuki Swift
SZ3 NOW £8995**

**3dr inc Metallic Paint
Saving £3089
ONLY 1 LEFT**



**The Suzuki Alto
SZ3 NOW £7495
inc Metallic Paint Saving £1430
ONLY 2 LEFT**



This offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All prices and specifications are correct at the time of going to press. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Alto-urban 51.4 (5.5), extra 74.3 (3.8), combined 64.2 (4.4). Official CO2 emissions 103g/km. Swift-urban 46.3 (6.1), extra 64.2 (5.4), combined 56.5 (5.0). Official CO2 emissions 118g/km. While stock last. Alto SZ3 MMRP inc Metallic Paint £9925, Swift SZ4 MMRP inc Metallic Paint £12084.





All Electric Suzuki

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Mucklow Hill, Halesowen
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star extra TRAVEL



LONDON THEATRE BREAKS

Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks

Selected weekend departures **FROM £124.95 (Saturday Night)**
FROM £129.95 (Dine and Dance)

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups are from Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks

Departures most weekends **FROM £129.95**

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Depart Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Sandwell and Dudley, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing. Stay the Friday evening too for an additional cost.

Self-drive breaks

Departures most weekends **FROM £89.95 (Friday Night)**
FROM £99.95 (Saturday Night)

The self-drive break is for one evening staying either on the Friday night or Saturday night in a four-star hotel. You will see the evening performance: for Friday night you will have a top price ticket and for Saturday evening there is a choice of price bands. Stay extra nights for a reasonable supplement (subject to availability).

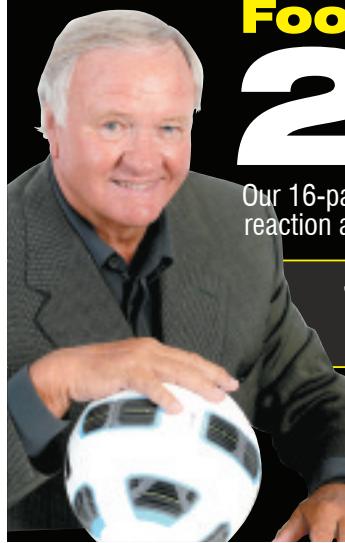
* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

For a brochure please call (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm), email starextra@expressandstar.co.uk (please include your name and address) or go to www.expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



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Young looking early 70's, honest, tactile, good sense of humour, slim.
WLTM genuine male, 69-75, for friendship, romance and maybe more.
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54, divorced, own house and car looking for nice lady, under 52.
Box Number P17466,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
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**GOOD, LOOKING,
UNATTACHED, FIT,
'SOCIALLY ADEPT'
PROFESSIONAL MALE,
47-58,**
Sought by vibrant, intelligent, attractive size 8 female, to accompany on important functions.
Photo please.
Box Number P17486,
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ADULT CINEMA and Sex Shop.
We're still here, we're the last ones who will be here after all the rest! The Foxy Lady, Oxford St, Bilston, 01902 490896.



BLACK COUNTRY COLTS
FOOTBALL PLAYERS
WANTED.

Under 14's Div 2.

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To play centre forward or
midfield.

Call Jason 07727 626713.

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(MALE)**

Santa's little Elf has been left
on the shelf.

Aged 50 plus, loving, honest
male, seeking slim female,
GSOH, with modern outlook
on life aged 50-62.

Why be alone at Christmas?
All letters replied to Santa's
Grotto

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**NDIKUYESA
KUPHUNZIRA CHICHEWA**

Ndipo ndikufuna wina wake
amene tingakambe kamodzi
kapena kawiri pa sabata.
Kodi mungandithande?

I'm trying to learn Chicewa
and I'm looking for someone
with whom to chat once or
twice a week. Can you help
me?

Box Number P17480,
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NEW SOCIAL FRIENDS
Modern well dressed single
lady 60's, would like to meet
female or male friends for
socialising, nights out, meals,
outings etc.

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**SINGLE MALE 49
(WIDOWED)**
Seeks female 40-50 for
friendship and nights out.
So fed of the same old nights!
Wolverhampton area.
Photo appreciated
(returned).

Box Number P17467,
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ELDERLY GENT
would like to meet a reliable
elderly lady for socialising,
friendship, companionship
and generally sharing leisure
time together.

Box Number P17475,

Express and Star,

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**GENUINE, CARING
FEMALE**

Attractive with GSOH would
like to meet gentleman 55-65
for friendship, companionship
and maybe more. Photo
appreciated and returned.

Box Number P17473,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

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CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Dating
events starting Thurs, Dec 15.
Civic, Ballroom, Cannock.
Advanced booking essential.
Contact Tracy 07576 457372.

ELDERLY GENT

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elderly lady for socialising,

friendship, companionship

and generally sharing leisure

time together.

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JAGUAR X-TYPE Estate, 2004, Diesel, 122bhp, full MoT, tax, alloys, immaculate, £2,850ono. 07314 306358.

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Serengeti, silver, three door, hard top, 2003, 11 months MoT, abs, airbag, AC, alarm, CD, locking wheel nuts, petrol, manual, good, clean condition inside and out.

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MERCEDES C220 CDI Avantgarde, silver, 2004, 52bhp, MoT and tax, auto, leather interior, £5,800. 01746 765024.

MERCEDES E300, T reg, 123k miles, Turbo Diesel, silver, auto, black leather, recently MoTd, tax, serviced, £1,950. 07970 852445.

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MINI ONE, 1.4cc, 3dr, 09 plate, petrol, Horizon Blue with racing stripes and pepper pack, 1 lady owner, full Mini service history, 21,500 miles, £2,495. 0900 661214.

MITSUBISHI DELICA 4x4 Diesel, 8-seater, 2004, 52 reg, N reg, low miles, MoT, tax, clean condition, £1,685. 00. 01746 787602.

NISSAN MICRA Active Luxury DCi 1.461cc, diesel, 5dr, 07, porcelin metal-paint, top, spec, all extras, genuine 18,000 miles, 1 owner, excellent condition, '1st to see will buy', £5,995. 07976 563 005.

PEUGEOT 106 2001, 127,000 miles, metallic blue, air bag, MoT, tax, MOT, tax, alloy, stereo, CD, petro, quick sale, £500. 07890 032317.

PEUGEOT 206 1.1, 5dr, 04, MoT, 51,000 miles, metallic blue, abs, alloys, 2 owners, please call for more info, £2,900.00. 07817 252368.

PEUGEOT 206 CC 1.6, 51 plate, manual, petro, orange, MoT and tax, 69,000 miles, £2,300. 07908 429204.

RENAULT CLIO 2006 met, black new shape 2 door alloys, long MoT history excellent condition, £2,995. 07887 691166.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE BILLABONG 1.2 16v, 2003, metallic red, 7 months tax, 4 months MoT, alloy wheels, CD player, £2,195. 0900 541443.

RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 petrol, 2006, wheelchair accessible vehicle, 12 months MoT, 12 months insurance backed extended warranty, 31,000 miles, £4,250. 07976 733848.

RENAULT MEGANE Coupe, 07, gold, diesel, leather, 6 speed gear box, 16v, 07, 1st Feb 2012, £6,500.00. 07811 603341.

RENAULT MEGANE Dynamique 1.6, auto, 03, full spec, 50k, excellent condition, 1st to see will buy, £1,595.00. 07974 463236.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4, 54, new shape, Tax/Mot, excellent condition, recent cambelt, service, £2,495. 07865 479115. Dudley.

STREET KA CONVERTIBLE Luxury, 2003, 12months MoT, leather, 6 player, £1,995. 00. 07899 966630.

TOYOTA YARIS T-Spirit, 1.0, 5dr, 03, 1st reg, 6 months, tax/Mot, low miles, £1,995. 00. 07528 135190.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7CDTi SX (08) met light blue service history, A/C, 55,700 miles, MoT/Tax, £1,995. 00. 07973 994415.

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2007, MoT June, tax February, high miles, 160,000 motor miles, hence price, metallic light grey, excellent condition, £1,000.

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01562 852923 or 07522 068908.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 2002, 3 door, petrol, 74,000 miles, dark metallic green, long tax and MoT, alloys, twin aircon, CD, vgc, £1,250.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI PLUSS, 2006, metallic black, 49,000 miles, Great little car, £2,200. 07973 664532.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI new shape, 56 Reg, 3dr, 1.4, black, 4, 2, 2 owners, SH, MoT, £3,750. 01902 661633. 07732 542364.

MERCEDES A140 PICADILLY

8 months MOT, 7 months tax, 41,000 miles, black, First to see will buy, £3,200.00. 01902 651359.

MERCEDES A140 52 reg, long MoT, lovely condition, £2,000. 07900 153656.

MERCEDES C220 CDI Avantgarde, silver, 2004, 52bhp, MoT and tax, auto, leather interior, £5,800. 01746 765024.

MERCEDES E300, T reg, 123k miles, Turbo Diesel, silver, auto, black leather, recently MoTd, tax, serviced, £1,950. 07970 852445.

MINI COOPER, 53, 41k, silver, chilli pack, panoramic black roof, tax, full MoT, excellent, £4,800.00. 07971 976011.

MINI ONE, 1.4cc, 3dr, 09 plate, petrol, Horizon Blue with racing stripes and pepper pack, 1 lady owner, full Mini service history, 21,500 miles, £2,495. 0900 661214.

PEUGEOT 106 2001, 127,000 miles, metallic blue, air bag, MoT, tax, MOT, tax, clean condition, £1,685. 00. 01746 787602.

PEUGEOT 206 1.1, 5dr, 04, MoT, 51,000 miles, black, abs, alloys, 2 owners, please call for more info, £2,900.00. 07817 252368.

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sport

THANK EVANS FOR SAVING THE YELTZ

HALESOWEN 0 POOLE TOWN 0

Heroic home goalkeeper Paul Evans kept out a Poole penalty and produced a series of superb saves to earn Halesowen a point in this Evo-Stik League Southern Division One South and West clash.

Evans kept the scores level with a top class double penalty save from Micky Hubbard in the 28th minute after Hubbard had been brought down by Brendan Kelly.

Evans dived to his left to keep out the Dolphins' spot-kick and then punched the rebound clear.

Halesowen's best chance of the first half fell after just five minutes.

Justin Nisbett exposed mid-table Poole's defence but Anthony Bruce dragged his shot wide when free in the penalty area.

The Yeltz created just a few further half-chances, although Gavyn Saunders struck wide on the half-volley and Nisbett fired over before the interval.

Early in the second half, Lee Chilton volleyed a clever flick from Nathan Jones wide.

Deflection

Evans excelled again with a superb 56th minute reflex save after Carl Preston's volley took a late deflection towards the top corner of Kane Daysh.

Chilton then did well to hold off two defenders before turning to shoot at visiting goalkeeper Nick Hutchings.

But Evans kept the score-sheet blank with two further splendid late saves.

The agile goalkeeper scooped the ball out from Michael Walker's 80th minute header and then denied Preston after Halesowen full-back James Loney lost the ball.

Poole captain Walker missed two last-gasp chances and Nisbett had a last-minute chance to snatch victory for Halesowen but the stalemate was preserved as goalkeeper Hutchings claimed the ball in a one-on-one.

Halesowen Town: Evans; Loney, Caines, Folkes, Kelly, McGrath, Bruce, Saunders, Jones, Nisbett, Walker, Howes, Gill (Herbert 64), Hubbard, Jeffes (Joyce 68), Preston, Cann (Smith 88). **Subs:** Richardson, Brookes.

Referee: S. Postin (Coventry)

Halas ladies have a gr-eight run of victories

Halas Ladies 8 B-ham Medics 0

For the second week running, Halas Hawks Ladies recorded an 8-0 win, this time against Birmingham Medics in the Birmingham County Women's League. The first half was a much closer affair with the teams separated by only one goal, which came from a 40-yard trademark shot from Katie Monk. But the second half was a totally different game with Halas taking advantage of the slope and scoring three goals in the first four minutes of the half through Gemma Colledge (2) and Sam Whittaker. Further goals came from Colledge who got a hat-trick, Tash Berry (2) and Lydia Bradley.

Girls League

Halas Hawks 4 Kewford Eagles 2

Halas U13s girls put in their most clinical performance of the season in this cup game against Kewford. They led one nil at half time after a cross from Elizabeth Thomas was turned into her own net by a defender. The visitors equalised soon after the break but an excellent cross by Sophie

Tividale push their claim for title

Westfields 1 Tividale 2

VIDDALE fired out a Midland Alliance title warning with an impressive success over pre-season championship favourites Westfields.

In a pulsating game, the visitors fully deserved the three points. Not only for the way they outplayed the strong Herefordshire side, but because they kept their discipline and handled some questionable decisions from the officials, including two very innocuous bookings in the first 10 minutes.

Tividale started brightly and for the first 15 minutes the home side couldn't get the

ball anywhere near the visitors' penalty area. Indeed, Tividale should have gone in front after just four minutes when Bekir Hall and Jason Chilton teamed up brilliantly down the left with the latter's cross just evading Chris Russell with the goal at his mercy.

Tividale were rocked when the hosts took the lead against the run of play. A harmless looking effort from Carl Morgan took a couple of deflections and completely wrong-footed keeper Tim Beech.

The second half continued much in the same way as the first but with even more

Tividale dominance and enterprise. Jukes and Russell were constantly causing all sorts of problems up front with the two Adams – Hill and Wattley – dominating the middle.

It seemed just a matter of time before Tividale scored and on 68 minutes they deservedly equalised when Jukes fired home from close range.

By the time the equaliser came, the home side were on the ropes.

It did, however, take Tividale until the 82nd minute to grab what proved to be the winning goal. Andy Parsons rose to power home a header from 12 yards

Perfect tens as Old Hales sides enjoy a glut of goals

Roynon returns to take the helm at Heathens



Adam Roynon is unveiled as Dudley Heathens captain. Picture: Jonathan Hipkiss

Dudley Heathens have signed Adam Roynon as their number one and skipper for the 2012 speedway season.

The 23-year-old Cumbrian was unveiled to a lavish ovation at a fans' talk-in at Cradley Heath Liberal Club last night, writes Tim Hamblin.

Roynon, whose time last year with the Heathens was blighted by injury but who helped them to the National Fours title, said: "I'm so proud to be back."

"To be skipper and number one – words cannot say how I feel."

"I just want to make everyone proud and bring some silverware back, like we did this year."

Roynon quickly became a fan's favourite during his spell at 'Monmore Wood' and was pleased to accept the club's offer of the captaincy.

Chairman Nigel Pearson said: "Adam is a great character and what he deserves above all else is a clear run free of injuries."

"If he goes through the season without any problems, I would expect him to add a point to his starting figure and be right at the top of the National League averages."

"He was only able to ride a handful of matches for us last season, but he soon developed a great affection for the club and the fans. We're delighted to have him back."



Tom Bulteel who scored a hat-trick against Solihull

OLD HALESOMIANS HOCKEY CLUB

OHHC 1st XI 10 Solihull Blossomfield 1

Old Halesomians Hockey 1st XI thrashed bottom of the league Solihull Blossomfield 10-1, including a hat-trick from Tom Bulteel.

It was Bulteel who opened the scoring early on and it was soon clear the home side were going to dominate. Hales' second goal soon came, when Paul Harrold found Captain Doug Houghton who powered the ball into the goal.

Substitute Graham Knight then put his name on the score sheet, just seconds after entering the game. Solihull had very little in the way of attack, and struggled to get out of their own half. Old Hales were able to make it 4-0 before half time, when Bulteel grabbed his second.

Bulteel completed his hat-trick just after the restart, when he capitalised on some sloppy Solihull defending. Bulteel easily beat the Solihull GK one-on-one, to make it 5-0. Mark Curzon got a goal from a deflection, before Josh Randhawa made it 7-0. Hales kept the ball well and pounced on mistakes by the visiting side. Harry Hughes was able to convert a penalty from 7 yards to give Hales a 8-0 lead. Knight got his second of the game to make it 9 with 10 minutes left. A lapse in concentration from Hales allowed Solihull to steal a consolation goal. Captain Houghton was able to make it double figures for Old Halesomians, as he sealed his brace.

OHHC 3rd XI 10 West Bromwich 0

Old Halesomians 3rd XI continued the scoring trend when they got off to the perfect start as they broke the deadlock in the opening minute as Damian Shackleton scored from a penalty corner. After then there was no going back as 'The Revolution' 3rd XI attacked constantly, trying out their new 3-4-3 formation.

Shackleton was able to grab two more to ensure his hat-trick, whilst in the goal fest Adam Hill was able to grab three of his own. Charles Palmer had an impressive game, as he was full of energy, never greedy and even bagged himself a brace. Matt Harrold and Steve Butler also made the score sheet as Hales made it 10-0. In the final moment Charlton scored which got the biggest cheer from the crowd to be disallowed for bad stick.

Harborne 0 OHHC 4th XI 3

In their final game before the winter break, Old Halesomians 4th XI dominated away at Harborne as they got three points following a 3-0 victory. An impressive first time reverse stick shot from Jim Gurmin set Hales on their way to victory, as he made it 1-0 to the visitors early on. John Mellor was able to make it 2-0 to Hales before the break. In the second half, Hales continued to control possession, and Mark O'Connell was able to make it 3-0 for the 4th XI before the full time whistle.

Other Results:

OHHC Ladies 3 Kidderminster 0

Finchfield 2 OHHC 2nd XI 1

OHHC 5th XI 0 Finchfield 7

Streetly 2 OHHC Badgers 0

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